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# ***Daily Report***

## **Latin America**

FBIS-LAT-94-062  
Thursday  
31 March 1994

# Daily Report

## Latin America

FBIS-LAT-94-062

### CONTENTS

31 March 1994

NOTICE TO READERS: An Ω indicates a Foreign Media Note.

#### INTER-AMERICAN AFFAIRS

|                                                                       |   |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Central American Leaders on New PRI Candidate [NOTIMEX] .....         | 1 |
| Peru To Link Tariff Plan to Rejoining Andean Group [Madrid EFE] ..... | 1 |
| Naval Conference Opens in Montevideo [LA MANANA 22 Mar] .....         | 2 |

#### CARIBBEAN

##### Cuba

|                                                                         |   |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Colombian Newspaper Publishes Castro's Letter [Havana TV] .....         | 3 |
| Robaina Seeks Trade, Solidarity on Uruguayan Visit [Havana Radio] ..... | 3 |
| Zambian Foreign Minister Visits Health Ministry [Havana Radio] .....    | 3 |
| Further on Castro's Participation in CTC Plenum [Havana Radio] .....    | 3 |
| New Antitheft Measures To Extend Beyond Harvest [Havana Radio] .....    | 4 |

##### Haiti

|                                                                                 |   |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---|
| Legislator on Meeting With U.S. Envoy, Peace Plan [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....  | 5 |
| Groups Demand Parliament Form Ad Hoc Government [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....    | 5 |
| Plans for Ad Hoc Government Outlined [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....               | 5 |
| Peace Plan: Aristide Insists on Military Step-Down [Port-au-Prince Radio] ..... | 6 |
| Coalition Message: Option Zero, Clean Sweep [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....        | 6 |
| Deputy Beaubrun: 'Bayonets Lay Down the Law' [Port-au-Prince Radio] .....       | 7 |

#### MEXICO

|                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| President Holds Security Cabinet Meeting [Mexico City Radio] .....            | 8  |
| Presidency Office Chief Named Representative to IDB [Mexico City Radio] ..... | 8  |
| Armed Man Arrested During Zedillo's Nomination [Mexico City Radio] .....      | 8  |
| EL UNIVERSAL Report on 'Plot' To Kill Colosio [28 Mar] .....                  | 9  |
| Three Presidential Candidates on Zedillo Nomination [Mexico City TV] .....    | 12 |
| Survey Checks Public Opinion on New PRI Candidate [EL NORTE 30 Mar] .....     | 12 |
| Pemex Director Issues Annual Report [Mexico City TV] .....                    | 13 |
| Correction to Former Interior Minister Interview .....                        | 13 |

#### CENTRAL AMERICA

##### El Salvador

|                                                                |    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| No Majority Winner in Election Forces Runoff [ACAN] .....      | 14 |
| PCN To Support ARENA in Runoff [EL DIARIO DE HOY 25 Mar] ..... | 14 |

##### Guatemala

|                                                                               |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Government Communique on Attack on U.S. Citizen [Guatemala City Radio] .....  | 15 |
| Further on Attack [ACAN] .....                                                | 15 |
| U.S. Tourist Shot, Robbed [Guatemala City Radio] .....                        | 15 |
| Government, URNG Sign Negotiations Timetable [PRENSA LIBRE 30 Mar] .....      | 16 |
| Sign Human Rights Agreement [PRENSA LIBRE 30 Mar] .....                       | 16 |
| Vice President Defends Ministerial Appointment [SIGLO VEINTIUNO 24 Mar] ..... | 19 |

## SOUTH AMERICA

### Argentina

|                                                                        |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Brazilian Foreign Minister Confirms Wheat Purchase [Madrid EFE]        | 21 |
| President Menem Fires Securities Commission Head [NOTICIAS ARGENTINAS] | 21 |
| Positions of UCR Economic Advisers Discussed [LA PRENSA 13 Mar]        | 21 |
| Discord Over Buenos Aires Reform Discussed [LA PRENSA 11 Mar]          | 23 |
| Supreme Court Justices Sworn In [BUENOS AIRES HERALD 30 Mar]           | 25 |

### Bolivia

|                                                        |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Report Accuses DEA of Torturing Suspect [La Paz Radio] | 26 |
|--------------------------------------------------------|----|

### Brazil

|                                                                   |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Next Finance Minister Stresses Curbing Inflation [Brasilia Radio] | 26 |
| Minister Cardoso: Economic Plan 'Established' [Brasilia Radio]    | 26 |
| Franco Kewrites Provisional Measure on URV [Brasilia Radio]       | 27 |
| Alexander Dupeyrat Named New Justice Minister [Brasilia Radio]    | 27 |
| New 'Cry of the Earth' Movement To Fight Hunger [Brasilia Radio]  | 27 |
| End of Monopoly on Oil, Gas Proposed [Brasilia Radio]             | 28 |
| U.S. Commander Visits, Meets Military Leaders [Brasilia Radio]    | 28 |
| Meets Armed Forces Chief of Staff [GAZETA MERCANTIL 21 Mar]       | 28 |

### Chile

|                                                                 |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Eight Detained in Santiago Demonstrations [Santiago Radio]      | 29 |
| Interior Minister Correa Interviewed [ESTRATEGIA 21 Mar]        | 29 |
| Foreign Ministry Official Views Exports, NAFTA [Santiago Radio] | 33 |
| Ruling Party Delegation To Visit Cuba in May [Santiago Radio]   | 33 |

### Colombia

|                                                                     |    |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Ecopetrol To Sell Petroleum Derivatives [EL TIEMPO 24 Feb]          | 34 |
| Roundup of Colombian Economic Developments [EL TIEMPO 17 Mar, etc.] | 35 |
| Program Launched To Improve Police Image [EL TIEMPO 17 Feb]         | 36 |

### Ecuador

|                                                     |    |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|
| President 'Annoyed,' Denies U.S. Pressure [NOTIMEX] | 36 |
|-----------------------------------------------------|----|

### Paraguay

|                                                                  |    |
|------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| MIE Wins National Encounter Internal Elections [NOTICIAS 28 Mar] | 37 |
| Cano To Replace Sanchez as CORPOSANA Chief [ULTIMA HORA 29 Mar]  | 37 |

### Peru

|                                                                         |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Four People Injured in Lima Bomb Attack [Madrid EFE]                    | 37 |
| Fujimori on Economy, Postponed Ecuadoran President Visit [Lima TV]      | 38 |
| Government Reduces Antiterrorist Budget 40 Percent [EL COMERCIO 24 Mar] | 38 |
| Cachique Rivera Cocaine Trafficker Captured [LA REPUBLICA 24 Mar]       | 39 |
| Security Forces Seize 1,051 Kg Cocaine Paste [Madrid EFE]               | 39 |
| Life Imprisonment Confirmed for 'Terrorists' [LA REPUBLICA 22 Mar]      | 39 |
| Arrest Warrant for Former President Garcia Issued [EXPRESO 21 Mar]      | 40 |
| Argentina To Back Export of Peruvian Radioisotopes [Lima Radio]         | 40 |

### Venezuela

|                                                                    |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Burelli Congratulates Gaviria on OAS Victory [EL UNIVERSAL 29 Mar] | 40 |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|----|

|                                                                          |    |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------------|----|
| Discusses Ties With Colombia [EL GLOBO 26 Mar] .....                     | 41 |
| Former Defense Minister Assumes U.S. Post [Caracas TV] .....             | 41 |
| Finance Minister Presents 1995 Budget to Council [EL GLOBO 24 Mar] ..... | 41 |
| Parties Comment on Proposal To Dissolve Congress .....                   | 42 |
| Medina: Congress 'Illegitimate' [EL DIARIO DE CARACAS 11 Feb] .....      | 42 |
| COPEI Rejects Statement [EL DIARIO DE CARACAS 12 Feb] .....              | 43 |
| Fermin: Dissolution 'Antidemocratic' [EL DIARIO DE CARACAS 13 Feb] ..... | 43 |
| MAS, Others React [EL NACIONAL 13 Feb] .....                             | 43 |

### Central American Leaders on New PRI Candidate

PA3003125394 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish  
0205 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] San Jose, 20 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Central American leaders today praised the designation of Ernesto Zedillo by the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party (PRI) as candidate for the Mexican presidency, replacing Luis Donaldo Colosio. Zedillo, a former secretary of planning and budget and of public education, was campaign manager for candidate Colosio, who was killed last week by two shots in the city of Tijuana, in northwestern Mexico.

In a statement for NOTIMEX via telephone after learning of Zedillo's designation, Guatemalan President Ramiro De Leon Carpio called for "strengthening relations with Mexico based on respect for sovereignty and self-determination." Meanwhile, Obdulio Chinchilla, president of the Finance Commission of the Guatemalan Congress, said should Zedillo win the Mexican elections on 21 August "there will be an opportunity to restructure more dynamic commercial relations with Mexico."

In Managua, Nicaraguan President Violeta de Chamorro, through government spokesman Luis Rivas Leyva, expressed hope that the PRI decision will continue maintain the normal course of the Mexican electoral process.

Panamanian President Guillermo Endara commented in Panama City that Zedillo's appointment was "a good selection."

Costa Rican Vice President German Serrano Pinto said "Mexico has shown it has overcome the recent unfortunate events and continues on the democratic path."

Nils Castro, one of the vice presidents of the Permanent Conference of Latin American Political Parties (COPPAL) expressed his hope that the new presidential candidate "will continue the same campaign program and the same government platform" as Colosio.

In San Salvador, Ren Figueroa, deputy of the ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance, said that "we do not doubt Zedillo will follow the same path as Colosio, as he was one of his closest collaborators."

Ciro Cruz Zepeda, secretary general of the Salvadoran National Conciliation Party (PCN), said the new PRI presidential candidate "is the best man" to assume that responsibility.

### Peru To Link Tariff Plan to Rejoining Andean Group

PY3003231194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1744 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Lima, 30 Mar (EFE)—The adoption of a single 15 percent tariff for all its imports, which Peru will propose

to its Andean Group partners on 4 April, is a precondition for the country to once again assume all its obligations within the group, some of which Peru relinquished in 1992.

On 4 and 5 April, the Andean delegates will hold a commission meeting in Caracas to debate the Peruvian situation and its tariff proposal. The commission is the top Andean Group body.

The proposal will be made by Minister of Industry, Tourism, Commerce, and Integration Liliana Canale.

This situation began in August 1992 when Peru asked its Andean partners Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia, and Venezuela to cancel its obligations regarding the liberalization program and the minimum external tariff until 31 December 1993. On that date, the deadline for Peru to fully reassume its obligations was moved to 30 April 1994.

Peru has engaged in commercial deals with its Andean partners since August 1992 through bilateral agreements, which also will expire on 30 April.

The Peruvian Government currently is operating with two types of tariffs, 25 and 15 percent, though the latter is more widely used—it applies to 99.5 percent of Peruvian imports.

Peruvian entrepreneurs, who are rather distrustful of the tariff issue, demand a return to the Andean Group, but respecting the Barahona document in which four tariffs were proposed.

The tariffs are 5, 10, 15, and 20 percent, but they are not being enforced yet because tariffs have not been established yet for a group of Andean products.

The entrepreneurs claim that setting a single 15 percent tariff will harm several enterprises because the importation of products for production of goods for Peruvians will pay a 15 percent tariff, while the other Andean countries will pay only 5 percent for the same products.

In the face of this criticism, the government believes it cannot change its policy just to favor some sectors.

The Industry Ministry stated that, contrary to what industrialists have claimed, the Andean market is not vital to Peru because it accounts for only 8.7 percent of Peruvian exports, while the European Union (EU) accounts for 30 percent, the United States for 20 percent, other Latin American countries for 10 percent, and Japan for the same percentage as the entire Andean Group.

Consequently, the Andean nations will concentrate their attention on the Peruvian proposal on 4 April and on the way in which the proposal will be considered and processed by Andean Group members.

**Naval Conference Opens in Montevideo**

PY3003193294 Montevideo LA MANANA in Spanish  
22 Mar 94 p 8

[Report by Juan Ernesto Techera]

[Text] Punta del Este—The 17th Inter-American Naval Conference opened at the San Rafael Hotel on 21 March. Attending the meeting are the 18 commanders in chief of national navies and a member of the Inter-American Defense Board.

At issue are different topics of interests for different Navies. The commanders will meet with President Lacalle during the week.

The agenda includes contributions by each delegation and provides for some of the issues to be discussed behind closed doors.

Vice Admiral James Coates, the Uruguayan Navy commander in chief, confirmed that a meeting with the president is scheduled for midday on 24 March at the Punta del Este Yacht Club.

He said: "The National Navy will present two issues. One refers to the inter-American war games, a technical

issue of minor importance compared to the second issue: the South Atlantic Maritime Area. Uruguay for the first time is hosting the organization's coordinator."

Coates said the organ "is a maritime traffic control organization that has existed for many years. Uruguay, Brazil, Paraguay, and Argentina are members."

He said: "The issue is very important, not just for us, but for all other Navies as well. It is the only case in the world of cooperation between Navies from different countries on such an important issue as maritime traffic control. This is a military issue which has many implications that go beyond the military sphere of influence including ocean contamination, the control of oil spills, the control of fishery plundering actions, arms contraband, drug trafficking, and similar items. All these topics come under the chapter of maritime traffic. This is the first time four countries have cooperated on something as important."

Regarding the commanders' meeting with Lacalle, Coates said: "The president has had the courtesy to invite all the participants to a luncheon during which we will probably exchange ideas on different issues with the representatives of the Navies of the Americas."

## Cuba

### Colombian Newspaper Publishes Castro's Letter

*FL3103022994 Havana Tele Rebelde and Cuba Vision Networks in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 94*

[Text] Today, the newspaper EL TIEMPO in Bogota, Colombia, published a letter from Cuban President Fidel Castro who acknowledges the paper's apologies for publishing reports on a supposed guerrilla meeting in Cuba. In his letter, which is addressed to the newspaper's editor and which was published on the front page of the largest Colombian newspaper, the head of the Cuban Revolution states that the issue is important and serious. The letter adds that the incident could have had serious and undesirable repercussions both for the credibility of many people and for [words indistinct].

In his letter to the Colombian newspaper EL TIEMPO, Fidel Castro added that he considers it his duty to express his most sincere appreciation for the step taken to deny reports published by the same newspaper that were not in keeping with the truth, and for the apology to Monsignor Nel Beltran and the Cuban Government.

Fidel Castro notes that in explaining the incident and apologizing to those affected, the newspaper EL TIEMPO has shown courage and honesty. We admit this, Fidel Castro said in his letter. He added: We accept your apologies and congratulate you, the newspaper's board, and the reporters and workers for an attitude that exalts us.

Fidel Castro concludes his letter to the newspaper EL TIEMPO in Bogota, Colombia, with an expression of hope and expectation that we will all learn a useful lesson from the unpleasant incident and that mutual respect and relations between the peoples of Cuba and Colombia will be strengthened.

### Robaina Seeks Trade, Solidarity on Uruguayan Visit

*FL3003155794 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] Today in Montevideo, diplomatic spokesmen advised that Cuban Foreign Minister Roberto Robaina Gonzalez will begin an official three-day visit to Uruguay on 4 April with the objective of encouraging bilateral trade and meeting with Uruguayan political leaders. Robaina will also meet with the representatives of the 12 Latin American countries that comprise the Latin American Integration Association, headquartered in Montevideo. Robaina will provide these representatives with information on Cuba's economic situation.

The Cuban Embassy spokesmen said that the foreign minister will call for the solidarity of the nations in the region to put an end to the economic blockade that Cuba has had to suffer for over three decades. During his stay in Montevideo, Robaina will meet with Uruguayan

President Luis Lacalle, leaders of various political parties, and representatives of Uruguay's commercial and industrial sectors.

### Zambian Foreign Minister Visits Health Ministry

*FL3003222794 Havana Radio Reloj Network in Spanish 2030 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] Today, Zambian Foreign Minister Remmy Kaindu Heli Mushota visited the Public Health Ministry where Cuban Health Minister Julio Teja Perez and other officials briefed him extensively on the work of the Ministry. The two ministers discussed the possibility of increasing current medical cooperation and the mutual hope of seeing such cooperation increase, as well as the development of the pharmaceutical industry in Cuba, which the Zambian delegation had observed.

Yesterday, the Zambian foreign minister and his retinue also visited the Genetic Engineering and Biotechnology Center and the Carlos J. Finlay Tropical Medicine Institute. In addition, they learned about the Cuban health program against Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome. The Zambian foreign minister was briefed on the family doctor program which, according to Teja, represents completion of Fidel's idea for the people's health program.

### Further on Castro's Participation in CTC Plenum

*FL3003143294 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1230 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] Our commander in chief, Comrade Fidel Castro, presided over the plenum of the CTC [Cuban Workers Federation] national committee, which for 10 hours discussed the Parliaments in the Workplace held throughout Cuba. Fidel pointed out the need to implement measures on the topics discussed and called the report presented at the meeting by CTC Secretary General Pedro Ross Leal very useful and extensive.

If we do not achieve economic efficiency, there can be no cleanup of the nation's finances; and if there is no streamlining of the finances, we will not achieve economic efficiency, Fidel said, linking these two basic ideas as two parts of a single whole.

Castro pointed out that the first decision, to take the subject of the economy extensively into the bosom of the National Assembly of the People's Government [ANPP], was a positive one. Castro pointed out that the second important step was to hold these meetings in the workplaces, so that we would all have a precise awareness of what is being examined.

Fidel said this was a courageous decision on the part of the Cuban Revolution, because the country is currently in very difficult circumstances; he noted that in other countries this kind of thing is sometimes not discussed even in the legislatures, among a nation's deputies.

Instead, such decisions are made by the government and the measures are out on the street the next day, with different results.

Fidel said: The results of these discussions are very good, in our case, very positive; and this is a colossal experience which puts us in a position to make everything we do turn out much better. Fidel Castro reiterated that the plenum's report was objective and at the same time optimistic, and that the process has yielded positive results with a high degree of efficiency and awareness.

The Cuban president said we have been subjected to difficult trials, tremendous tests from day one and have confronted them with dignity, courage, and patriotism. He pointed out that little by little, small advances are being made; now the task is to surmount the problems, always keeping in mind that we are not going to exit the special period overnight but rather, to the extent that we are capable of organizing everything, by working and applying measures that are correct in a difficult world.

The commander in chief said: The last harvest was a difficult one. The drop in production was really brutal. Just figure what kind of situation we were in, what the situation was for all of us who had to confront all this alongside the Cuban people, amidst a harvest without fuel, without tires, without spare parts. That is why I say that, during this harvest, we must effect cane recovery—and the recovery, too, of the grinding and the yields. That is the reason that, during this harvest, which is still going on, the workers movement should not drop its guard: not in the tobacco harvest, nor the potato harvest, nor the sugar harvest, said Fidel.

Fidel pointed out that all of this is being done amidst the blockade by the United States but that a meeting like this is very stimulating, to study now the necessary measures and which the workers have discussed, measures that have been made public through all the media and of which the people are aware.

Fidel reminded the group that certain measures might not be popular, but that there is an awareness of this just as there is of decriminalization of the dollar—a measure that was taken with full knowledge of its consequences but which was necessary, even though the inequalities that have arisen hurt us, and a measure about which Fidel himself has spoken publicly on other occasions.

Fidel pointed out: In the last analysis, the economic cleanup is not the most important thing. Rather, the most important thing is the awareness that has been achieved, to date, about these problems the nation is facing. The measures will be discussed at the ANPP, and the ANPP will make the pertinent recommendations to the government, which, in the last analysis, is the body that has to apply them at the proper time.

Castro pointed out the need for the deputies to have all the pertinent information, the most important aspects of what has been discussed in the Parliaments in the

Workplace, because everything must be studied carefully, reflected upon carefully. There were numerous speeches made during the plenum by the members of the CTC's national committee, union leaders, and certain ministers and other government officials.

### New Antitheft Measures To Extend Beyond Harvest

FL3003170194 Havana Radio Progreso Network in Spanish 1200 GMT 30 Mar 94

["Final part of interview" with Lieutenant Colonel (Octavio Geronez) of the Havana Province Ministry of Interior Office by police reporter Alemany; place and date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Alemany] The controls established to prevent the theft of agricultural products during the first months of 1994 will be maintained until the end of the 1994 harvest and even after that in order to eradicate all possible channels for illegally supplying the underground market with agricultural products and allowing the so-called profiteers [macetas] to get rich.

[[Geronez]] We plan to keep an ensemble of measures after the conclusion of this campaign. The first thing we are going to do is work at the current level of intensity throughout the time the harvest is taking place. The harvest is to last until the end of April, more or less, possibly through the first days of May. After that, we plan to keep up a certain level of harassment, with checkpoints on the main roads linking our province with the City of Havana and also at certain points linking Pinar del Rio Province—necessarily passing through our province—with the City of Havana. A large quantity of products comes from Pinar del Rio and these products need to be protected until they reach the product-concentrating market [mercado concentrador] and, finally, the local produce market [placita].

[Alemany] According to Lt. Col. (Geronez) of the Havana Province Ministry of Interior [Minint] Office, all the forces responsible for agricultural products' reaching the cold-storage facilities and the wholesale and retail produce markets for equitable distribution among the population will thoroughly carry out their mission to guarantee that the population is supplied with food-stuffs.

[[Geronez]] We comrades absorbed in this task, in this harvest, are working meticulously and arduously so that our population can feel secure, can trust that the products earmarked for cold-storage facilities will go there; and that those earmarked for the product-concentrating markets for direct consumption by the population will arrive and reach the people.

It is important for all the products earmarked for cold-storage facilities to arrive and be stored because that is what is going to permit the systematic provisioning of the population with an entire series of products throughout the year, products that are going to be in

short supply because they will be out of season, in short supply from the point of view of agricultural production, I mean. Because we think that the quantities being put into cold storage can guarantee a certain level of supply.

[Alemany] Lastly, Lt. Col. (Geronez) said Havana Province's Minint forces will always fulfill their duty of preventing unscrupulous or criminal individuals from continuing to affect the security and tranquility of the citizenry.

[(Geronez)] It is truly a commitment of ours, all us Minint comrades, all our institution's officers corps, troops, and auxiliaries, to have those products reach the population, have those products contribute to alleviating our country's food situation. And we are going to work, struggle, make the greatest effort so that our people will feel satisfaction with all the work we are doing.

## Haiti

### Legislator on Meeting With U.S. Envoy, Peace Plan

FL3003174494 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Frantz Robert Monde, president of the Chamber of Deputies, rejects the U.S. [peace plan] proposal. Monde points out that the lower chamber is sticking to the resolution passed on 3 March. Frantz Robert Monde had invited the U.S. ambassador to meet with him on Tuesday, 29 March, to inform the ambassador on the position of the Chamber of Deputies. Let us listen to Monde, interviewed after his meeting with U.S. Ambassador William Lacy Swing:

[Begin recording] [Monde] I explained to the American ambassador that I was a legislator. I took a position on a crisis concerning my country, and it is out of the question for the Haitian parliament to submit to a plan presented by certain American lawmakers.

The ambassador tried to explain to me that it is the concept of democracy in this country that prompted lawmakers to work on a plan. I gave him to understand that I too had worked on a plan, and the parliament will not accept any pressure from any other parliament or other legislators; we have learned that a country can not live in isolation, but I have also learned that a country's sovereignty can not be trampled underfoot, particularly the prestige and dignity of the Haitian parliament.

As for another plan, it is a Black Caucus affair. It does not concern the Haitian legislators. I even told Senator Dodd yesterday that if Father Aristide elicits such admiration from so many great men within the U.S. Congress, they can just elect him to be the president of the U.S. Congress.

[Unidentified reporter] This other plan is allegedly being prepared by the State Department?

[Monde] That is the State Department's concern, not the Haitians' concern. The State Department has already conceived other plans for Haiti. The plans did not succeed. The [Haitian] legislators took the matter in hand. We prepared a plan; we are sticking to it, and this plan, its conception, was not influenced by either Aristide or the Army. This plan must be implemented, or what must be done will be done. [end recording]

### Groups Demand Parliament Form Ad Hoc Government

FL3003230794 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Excerpts] On 29 March, the Coordinating Committee for National Mobilization presented the text of a resolution opposing Aristide to parliament. This resolution was handed over to the office of the lower chamber and to the unofficial office of the Upper Chamber. Hubert De Ronceray [leader of the Mobilization for National Development], Gabriel Augustin [leader of the Assembly of Democrats for the Republic], Rony Durand, and Herve Leveille [of the Group of Citizens of the Greater North, CCGN] are the principal members of this delegation demanding that parliamentarians either reactivate Article 149 or form an ad hoc government.

A member of the delegation told Signal FM that the office of the lower chamber has promised to give a ruling on this resolution soon. Rony Durand demands a Haitian solution to the crisis. The delegation and the office of the lower chamber met in camera. [passage omitted]

Herve Leveille of CCGN expects a positive response to their request from the parliamentarians. [passage omitted]

### Plans for Ad Hoc Government Outlined

FL3003233394 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpt] On 23 March [as heard], leaders representing the Mobilization for National Development, the Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress, the National Conference, and the Congress of Haitian People for National Rescue met in Port-au-Prince and voted for a joint resolution enjoining parliament to conform to the following obligations:

- Formally acknowledge Jean-Bertrand Aristide's deliberate refusal to appoint a prime minister;
- Acknowledge the presidential vacuum;
- Implement Article 149 of the Constitution by forming an ad hoc government to function under these exceptional circumstances; and
- In case of nonexecution of the three aforementioned demands, bow to a national act of public power establishing an ad hoc government.

This resolution was to be officially delivered to the parliament on 29 March. Meanwhile, the Coordinating

Committee for National Mobilization continues consultations with all of the country's sectors as a demonstration of support for the formation of the new government. [passage omitted]

#### **Peace Plan: Aristide Insists on Military Step-Down**

*FL3003174094 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Excerpt] Exiled Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide has rejected the new U.S. plan aimed at restoring him to power, insisting on the need for the military in power to resign as the first step of a peace plan in Haiti. It is this strategy that will lead to the restoration of democracy in Haiti, Aristide explained in a communique issued on 29 March.

Aristide was responding to the new U.S. initiative providing for the simultaneous appointment of a new prime minister and the resignation of the current military government in Port-au-Prince, which would get amnesty. This plan also provides for strengthening the international trade embargo by reinforcing the watch over the border between Haiti and the Dominican Republic in order to increase pressure on the military regime.

Father Aristide, who was informed of this new plan on 25 March by U.S. Vice President Al Gore, pointed out that he is sticking to the eight-point plan that he presented to the United Nations in October. The exiled president has added that if the military gives up power on the morning [of any given day], he will appoint a prime minister that very afternoon. [passage omitted]

#### **Coalition Message: Option Zero, Clean Sweep**

*FL3103004794 Port-au-Prince Radio Metropole in French 1145 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Passages within quotation marks in Creole]

[Excerpts] A coalition of political parties has demanded the formation of an ad hoc government as a way out of the crisis. This coalition, regrouping MDN [Mobilization For National Development], FRAPH [Front for Haitian Advancement and Progress], CARENA [Action Committee for National Reconciliation], and CCGN [Group of Citizens of the Greater North] chose the seventh anniversary of the Constitution to submit its resolution bill for parliamentary approval. It should also be pointed out that the Chamber of Deputies vice president presented his reflections on the 1987 Constitution to the press. Edner Jean filed a report:

[Begin recording] [Jean] On Constitution Day, very few legislators responded to the invitation from the office of the Chamber of Deputies. The parliament's commemoration of the seventh anniversary of our fundamental charter could have been as dull as the rest of the country's except for this reflection by Vice President

Mac-Ferl Morquette on the importance of the Constitution. Today more than ever, the Constitution remains the only compass for legislators in conducting state affairs, said the PANPRA [Nationalistic Progressive Revolutionary Party of Haiti] deputy. Mac-Ferl Morquette explains that despite the jolts of national political life, this Constitution, guardian of our republican institutions, was able to stand the test of time.

Reflecting on the concept of democracy, the vice president of the lower chamber recalled the ambiguous attitude of those elected on 16 December in the face of the Constitution's provisions. At the same time, he denounced the totalitarianist tradition, which had always characterized the practice of power in Haiti. Lack of tolerance and resistance to consensus are the main causes for our misfortunes, deplored Vice President Mac-Ferl Morquette. [passage omitted].

The political opponents of President Aristide chose precisely this 29 March to defend their political interests and draw the sheets to their side of the bed, launching a new initiative in their search for power. Indeed, in a joint resolution, CCGN, CARENA, FRAPH, MDN, and the Coordination Committee for National Mobilization invited senators and deputies to acknowledge the deliberate refusal of the president of the Republic to fill the presidential vacuum by applying Article 149 of the Constitution, creating a provisional ad hoc government within three days of the official presentation of this resolution on 29 March. Let us listen, successively, to statements by Hubert DeRonceray of MDN, Herve Leveille from CCGN, and Rony Durand from CARENA.

[DeRonceray] "This resolution represents the united front we created so the political crisis could find national support. There are two important points in this resolution: First, we are asking the Chamber to take a stand on Article 149 of the Constitution in facilitating the formation of a provisional ad hoc government. We are saying that in case the Chamber does not take action concerning that point, there will be a national mobilization. Popular power will take on its responsibility to install an ad hoc government.

[Leveille] "I believe all Haitians will agree to find a national solution to this crisis.

[Unidentified reporter] "What kind of reaction did you get from the president of the lower chamber?

[Leveille] "The president is very concerned about the resolution. He promised to begin working on it this afternoon with the other presidents within the chamber."

[Durand] [Words indistinct] mostly autonomy that we are making some proposals. That is how to understand it. The international community has its position. The national community has its own proposal.

[Jean] It should be noted that in case it is not carried out by the deadline set by these political groups, they say the nation will fill the institutional vacuum by an act of public power and take measures to establish an ad hoc government. Its message is clear: We will move to option zero, the clean sweep. [end recording]

**Deputy Beaubrun: 'Bayonets Lay Down the Law'**

*FL3003234894 Port-au-Prince Signal FM Radio in French 1130 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] According to Leogane Deputy Gerard Evanns, who spoke in favor of amending the 1987 Constitution, before returning to constitutional normalcy, the political crisis must be resolved. Beaubrun said: Bayonets lay down the law, which is what we are experiencing today. He denounces the behavior of everyone involved in the current crisis:

[Begin Deaubrun recording, in Creole] First of all, to return to a constitutional framework, we should first [last word in English] resolve the Haitian crisis. Nothing can be accomplished in a crisis situation. In a crisis

situation, it is normal for bayonets to lay down the law, while the Constitution goes unheeded [bayonet se fe; konstitisyon se papye]. When we say bayonets lay down the law, we see bayonets in the hands of Jean-Bertrand Aristide and the international community when it uses embargo, when it uses blockade, when it uses pressure, and when it uses threats. All these things are bayonets. We also see bayonets in the hands of the Haitian Army when it represses... [pauses] I will not say repress because the word repress is not appropriate, when the Haitian Army oppresses, when it randomly destroys, arresting people arbitrarily, abnormally, anarchically. Then bayonets lay down the law, while the Constitution goes unheeded." [end recording]

Baubrun invited the senators to show their patriotism by disentangling the crisis. He revealed that the Chamber of Deputies would soon be looking into the crisis in the Senate because Senator Sansaricq sent a letter to the office of the lower chamber mentioning sanctions that are being considered by the unofficial office [of the Senate] against the senators who are chronically absent.

### President Holds Security Cabinet Meeting

PA3103023494 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Report by Elizabeth Diaz Sotero at Los Pinos Presidential Palace from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] At noon today, we said that calm had returned to the official Los Pinos residence. But this does not mean inactivity. At approximately 1400 today, the president held a meeting with members of the national security cabinet: National Defense Secretary Antonio Riviello Bazan, Government Secretary Jorge Carpizo McGregor, Attorney General Diego Valadez, Federal District Attorney General Humberto Benitez Trevillo, and National Security General Director Jorge Tello Pon.

Although we do not have any official information on this meeting, we believe the president and his officials must have discussed, among other matters, the appointment of Dr. Cordoba Montoya as Mexico's new permanent representative to the Inter-American Development Bank, headquartered in Washington; the general situation in the country; Chiapas issues; Luis Donaldo Colosio's murder; and, quite probably, how Mexico and especially Mexico City will get along in the coming days.

Although it has not been officially announced, it seems President Salinas de Gortari will take a few days of rest after all and go to Agualeguas, Nuevo Leon. This is one of two times during the year that he takes a holiday. This has not been officially confirmed, but it seems everything is ready for him in Agualeguas. Therefore, he must have talked with his officials about how things will go in Mexico City during his probable absence.

### Presidency Office Chief Named Representative to IDB

PA3103015294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 0000 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Report by Alma Rosa Baez at the Mexican Finance Secretariat from the "ACIR Radio News" newscast]

[Text] Good afternoon. The Finance Secretariat has issued a short communique that reads as follows:

Dr. Pedro Aspe, the finance and public credit secretary, has appointed Dr. Jose Cordoba Montoya as the Mexican representative to the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), which has its headquarters in Washington. Dr. Jose Cordoba was chief of the Office of the Presidency of the republic until today.

The Finance Secretariat has not released any more details on this information. It is important, however, to tell our listeners that the IDB governors will meet in Guadalajara from 8 to 13 April. Mexico is hosting this meeting. It will be the first official event handled by Mr. Jose Cordoba Montoya. Cordoba Montoya was the chief of the Office of

the Presidency of the republic and, until today, was in charge of all the advisers of President Carlos Salinas de Gortari.

The IDB is very important within the international economic sector. It groups all nations, especially developing nations. At least 23 countries are expected to attend the meeting in Guadalajara. Representatives of all those countries will meet with the IDB in that city. Jose Cordoba Montoya will probably have to move to Washington because all the governors handle their countries' IDB concerns from its headquarters. This is the information we have now.

### Armed Man Arrested During Zedillo's Nomination

PA3003154294 Mexico City Radio ACIR Network in Spanish 1410 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by Radio ACIR Program Director Guillermo Ochoa from the "Pano-rama" newscast]

[Text] A man armed with a .38 caliber gun was arrested yesterday during the event to nominate Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon as the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] presidential candidate. Members of the presidential general staff arrested the man just a few steps from the multiple purpose room where the appointment was announced. The man's name is Miguel Angel Bernal Vargas and he was taken to the Attorney General's Office 7th Agency located at the Cuauhtemoc Station.

Bernal Vargas said he is a member of the General Secretariat of Safety and Roads, and that his mission was to act as an ear in the event. He was disguised, sorry to say, wearing a jacket with many pockets, like the ones used by photographers and hunters. These jackets are useful as they can hold film and other supplies in all the pockets. That is the way this individual was disguised.

Inasmuch as persons entering the hall were being searched, it was discovered this man was carrying a .38 caliber gun in a small bag. He was arrested and turned over to the 7th Police Station [as heard]. Mr. Lievano Sanchez, PRI secretary of information and propaganda, confirmed the arrest of this man, who claimed he was acting as an ear.

This is a regrettable practice of some government offices and people, and even the Federal Army. They send individuals disguised as photographers to certain events so that they can prepare a detailed report on not only what was said, for example in a news conference, but also of the reactions, attitudes, and so forth. They prepare very special reports for certain people or certain offices. They simply carry a recorder or a photographer's jacket and are sent to these events. Sometimes, they carry a recorder and pose as radio reporters, other times, they carry a camera and pose as photographers. They mingle with the rest of the reporters and then go and present their private reports.

Unfortunately, this is a method frequently used by government offices. In this case, who knows who sent this ear, but

he must not be very intelligent because the car was carrying a gun to cover an event of this type. This is unbelievable, truly unbelievable.

**EL UNIVERSAL Report on 'Plot' To Kill Colosio**  
*PA3003180294 Mexico City EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 28 Mar 94 pp 1, 20, 21*

[Report by Dora Elena Cortes and Manuel Cordero: "Colosio, Victim of a Plot; Accomplice Arrested"]

[Text] Tijuana, F.C. [Baja California], 27 Mar—Before dawn on 27 March, the Attorney General's Office [PGR] arrested Tranquilino Sanchez Vega, an aide to General Domiro Garcia Reyes, whom the Presidential Staff put in charge of the security around Luis Donaldo Colosio Murrieta. Sanchez has been interrogated since early morning on his presumed complicity in the attack that left the Institutional Revolutionary Party [PRI] presidential candidate dead.

The revealing pictures of Robert Gauthier, a news photographer for THE SAN DIEGO UNION, changed the course of the investigations, after the PGR reported through its chief, Diego Valades, that only one person had fired at the PRI presidential candidate. In one of the pictures taken minutes before the attack in Lomas Taurinas and published by Associated Press (AP), we can see when Sanchez, wearing a dark leather jacket and cap with a badge in front, extends his right arm toward the candidate and reaches over the shoulder of Colosio, who has his back to Sanchez.

The release of these pictures and statements by doctors, specialists, policemen, and authorities who are close to the case, as well as statements residents gave to EL UNIVERSAL, support the possibility that Luis Colosio may have been murdered as a victim of a plot possibly involving members of his security staff. Sources who were questioned said that "at least three persons shot at Luis Colosio." The first shot came from Colosio's left side; the second one, which hit Colosio in the abdomen, from his right side; and the third one—apparently shot by Mario Aburto Martinez—was fired at the candidate's head as he was falling to the ground. Everything seems to indicate that the three shots were fired simultaneously and that the assassins were within the security ring around the candidate, which is a usual practice in every presidential tour. It was said that there were snipers around.

The report on the plot to assassinate the candidate was corroborated by the alleged involvement of individuals responsible for Colosio's security, as well as by big logistical mistakes made during his tour to Tijuana. Last-minute changes in the schedule and adjustments to the podium from which Colosio would speak in Lomas Taurinas attributed to the General Staff make us think that the PRI candidate was not murdered by one person alone, as the PGR stated.

Sources close to the PGR spoke about the commotion caused by the pictures taken by the San Diego reporter. Said pictures were immediately taken to PGR authorities

in this city. One of these pictures, published in the 25 March issue of THE SAN DIEGO UNION, shows the PRI presidential candidate, and to his right is Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, former judicial agent, whom the PGR arrested immediately after the assassination. The PGR later announced that it would set him free "as the law stipulates." One of his two children, who were part of Colosio's security team, is next to Mayoral.

A few steps behind Colosio (in the same picture), we can see assassin Mario Aburto Martinez, and right next to him we can see a tall and muscular individual who is wearing a dark leather jacket and a cap with a badge on the front. He was later identified as Tranquilino Sanchez Vega. On his left arm, he is wearing a band with Colosio's name on it. Staff Gen. Garcia Reyes is right next to him.

The second picture clearly shows how both individuals (Aburto Martinez and Sanchez Vega) advance until Aburto positions himself on the right-hand side of the candidate and Sanchez Vega is behind the alleged killer, with the right hand (of Sanchez Vega) pointing towards the abdomen of the candidate. He remains standing next to a stocky individual, the staff general, who, according to eyewitnesses, was always accompanied by Tranquilino Sanchez.

Members of the security corps who were hired by the PRI Municipal Direction Committee in Tijuana to guard the candidate said Gen. Domiro Garcia Reyes, together with Tranquilino Sanchez Vega, ordered them to remove the white band bearing Colosio's name from their arms, which they had decided to wear to identify themselves.

In THE SAN DIEGO UNION photograph, it can be seen that Tranquilino Sanchez, who was captured early this morning, wore the aforementioned band, without Domiro Garcia Reyes asking him to remove it, as he had done with the rest of the security agents.

Without going into great detail, Humberto Sanoja Morrell, one of those in charge of the security group under the municipal PRI, confirmed to EL UNIVERSAL that they had been ordered to remove the band and leave the area "because the candidate did not like security." Sanoja Morrell affirmed that both he and Rodolfo Rivapalacio, who coordinated the group of security agents, had gathered some 125 agents to form a barrier guarding the candidate's path, but insisted they were ordered to leave the area. Sanoja Morrell denied the PRI hired these security people (including former State Judicial Police agents) because most of them volunteered to participate in the campaign, as is customary during electoral campaigns. He denied knowing Tranquilino Sanchez Vega and said he was not a member of the security staff (local security).

Meanwhile, sources we talked with told us that Colosio was taken to Lomas Taurinas without heeding the warning that it was one of the most dangerous parts of town, not only because of the high crime rate but because security conditions could not be guaranteed there. They revealed the PRI decided to set up the speaker's stand in front of an enormous wall painted with the word Colosio "that would

serve as protection for the PRI candidate, but because of an order by the Presidential staff that accompanied him, the stand was set up above the wall, on the hill, leaving Colosio absolutely unprotected. [no closing quotation marks as published]

Eglantina Esquivel de Abad, a PRI member who publishes a bulletin in Tijuana, said in an interview with this newspaper that they apparently tried to assassinate the candidate when he addressed the crowd, but the presence of children next to Colosio prevented this from happening. Eglantina said she saw when Aburto Martinez arrived at the crime scene, accompanied by Vicente Mayoral Valenzuela, former head of homicide of Judicial Police in Tijuana. She explained that both Mayoral and a tall and robust man (seemingly Sanchez Vega) always accompanied Aburto Martinez.

"When Colosio spoke they appeared nervous, as if they were preparing themselves to do something bad, but since they were unable to attack him at that moment, they began to follow him and always had direct access to the candidate," Eglantina noted. After the attack took place, she burst into tears hysterically accusing Mayoral of being one of the assassins.

The interviewee asserted that a PGR official sought her afterward to notify her she would have to appear before the PGR "because my testimony would be very valuable. I refused, however, because I did not know if he was really an official or they were trying to shut me up because I was a witness."

Eglantina affirmed that she later went to the PGR office accompanied by her two sons and a state police agent she had known for a long time, "but once I arrived there, they just kept me isolated in an office until 0200 on Thursday, because no one ever interrogated me." Apparently, Eglantina Esquivel conceded, "what they were trying to do was to keep my mouth shut because I had seen who attacked the candidate." She insisted she was never questioned in connection with the assassination. Eglantina referred to the way in which the candidate was evacuated from the area, as well as the craginess of the terrain, which made it impossible to think of a quick exit in case of an emergency.

Sources we consulted, who have participated in logistical tasks in previous presidential campaigns, said "no person responsible for the security of a candidate should have ever allowed a rally to be held in such place as Lomas Taurinas." Local PRI figured emphasized that "in this case, apparently there was strong interest by the organizers of Colosio's campaign that he appear there." They explained that Jaime Martinez Veloz, Solidarity deputy delegate, was tasked with organizing the event at the request of Mario Luis Fuentes, former general director of Solidarity and current social participation coordinator of the Colosio campaign. Both officials have worked closely with former Public Education Secretary Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon.

PRI members themselves have revealed that fellow members from Baja California are outraged by the fact that

Zedillo Ponce de Leon, despite being originally from that area and PRI campaign manager, was not in Baja California, arguing that he wanted to avoid any speculation regarding his possible candidacy to the Baja California Government.

PRI militants who were interviewed and who insisted on pointing out other reasons justifying that Zedillo did not accompany Colosio in his native state, added: "For heaven's sake, no one is more qualified to represent the PRI in our state than Zedillo."

Logistics experts have also pointed out the lack of a mechanism of immediate attention to the candidate: "In the middle of a campaign, those in charge of logistics are the first to visit the states the candidate is scheduled to visit, and makes arrangements with a hospital so that it will be prepared to offer its services in case of an emergency. In addition to this, blood for the candidate (particularly, in Colosio's case because his blood type was considered uncommon) and a Mexican Social Security Institute (IMSS) ambulance are taken along during the entire political tour.

On this occasion, both of these aspects were ignored. The candidate was taken to the General Hospital, a Health Secretariat institution that lacked medical equipment and instruments, and donors were solicited because blood was not available. They note that no IMSS ambulance or any other hospital was available at the incident's site so at first, he had to be put in a suburban van to be moved later to a Delta-7 rescue unit, which lacked the equipment needed to attend to the emergency. Policemen questioned confirm that Colosio was taken to the General Hospital the long way—it took 20 minutes—when he could have been taken to IMSS Clinic 20, which would have been taken at most five minutes.

An expert in providing security services to prominent persons from California State was questioned about all of this, and when he took a look at the second photo taken by the reporter from San Diego, he categorically said that: "I hope this man (Sanchez Vega) forgives me, but he is getting ready to shoot in this photo. I believe he was one of the men who shot Colosio in the abdomen." He emphasized the way in which Sanchez Vega keeps his arm above Colosio's shoulder, and stated that "that is a shooting position, and therefore, this situation must be clarified by Mexican federal authorities."

Another one of Gauthier's photographs, which shows Colosio lying on his stomach, destroys the PGR argument claiming that Colosio Murrieta was shot by one person, with an initial shot to the head as stated by Attorney General Diego Valadez. Valadez said that when Colosio had walked a distance of approximately 10 meters in the crowd, Mario Aburto Martinez, the presumed perpetrator, who was on Colosio's right, drew a revolver, placed it to Colosio's right temple and pulled the trigger, mortally wounding Colosio.

"When he was shot in his right temple, with an exit hole in the corresponding left temple, the victim turned

around counterclockwise, and while he was falling down, the attacker pulled the trigger again to produce a second wound in the abdominal area, where the bullet entered through the hypogastrium and exited in the region of the right hypochondrium."

Guillermo Castorena and Alvaro Garcia Taxilaga, Colosio's doctors, signed an initial report establishing that Colosio received two bullet wounds: one in the region of the skull entering through the right temporal bone and exiting through the left parietal bone. Other doctors who were consulted said the said report indicates that Colosio was shot in the skull; the bullet entered the right temple and exited "through the small bone located above the left temple." Meanwhile, the second shot was in the abdomen, entering below his left rib and exiting in the region of the right rib.

Doctors who performed surgery on the PRI presidential candidate gave EL UNIVERSAL assurances that the body of the unfortunate man apparently received three shots from three different weapons: two apparently .38-caliber specials and one of apparently smaller caliber, perhaps .22 or .25-caliber.

This coincides with the innocent remarks made on a radio station by renown Tijuana cardiologist Patricia Aubanel Riedel, whose past successes include "open heart" surgery on Nobel peace prize winner Mother Theresa of Calcutta. During an interview on XEC Radio the day after Colosio's death, the cardiologist told commentator Jesus Arnaldo Lopez Salcido: "He received two different shots; one of them, which entered on the right side of the brain in the area of the temple, came from a .38-caliber revolver; the other, from a .22-caliber revolver, apparently entered the left side of his abdomen in the sub-thoracic area, which led the team of doctors to believe that there had been two shots."

The commentator asked the doctor if she meant that two different weapons had been used, to which she answered: "This is what we thought (the doctors who saw Colosio's body) and those are our observations (while we were treating the candidate), although we have not yet read the legal expert's report. It is our assumption." Later, in response to the commentator's insistence on finding out if two persons fired at the candidate, Aubanel Riedel answered: "Yes, I believe so. The reports will establish that." The reports did not mention it, however. Instead, they presented a totally different picture: one weapon, a Brazilian-made "Taurus" .38 special fired by one man, Mario Aburto Martinez, 23.

Confidential reports provided to EL UNIVERSAL reveal that Dr. Aubanel Riedel's statements greatly upset Attorney General Diego Valadez, who issued instructions to "fix that." During subsequent interviews Dr. Aubanel attempted to recant what she had said but there is a recording of the interview. Coincidentally, Doctor Rosalina Guerra, director of the General Hospital (where the late PRI candidate was treated), on the same

evening (of Dr. Aubanel's interview) also made statements on a local television newscast. Dr. Guerra answered, among others, a very specific question: Could the doctors establish whether the wounds were caused by a certain weapon. Guerra categorically denied this possibility, adding: "Doctors can only determine the caliber of the weapon." We asked doctors on both sides of the border (Tijuana and San Diego) about this and they said, virtually without even thinking: "Of course; we can determine perfectly well if the wounds were caused by guns of different caliber, but we always prefer to wait for confirmation by experts."

Another of the doctors who treated Luis Donaldo Colosio in the operating room, shocked by his death, complained of "how filthy all of this was" and asserted that the candidate had not been shot twice but three times. Hospital personnel who by reason of their profession were able to get close to the operating room, confirmed this and even gave assurances that "very strange things happened; for example, members of the Presidential General Staff did not allow doctors from Mexico City to treat the patient or to enter the operating room while he was still alive." The personnel in question said an altercation took place between Presidential General Staff members and representatives from the PGR over this situation, but the latter prevailed because they said they were in charge of the situation. As a result, only local specialists and doctors treated the candidate.

Eleven doctors treated Colosio and "none of them were from Mexico City; all of them were local doctors," insisted a source who added that two autopsies were conducted on the candidate's body: one by the Tijuana Forensic Medicine Service (Semefo) by Doctors Gustavo Salazar and Esteban Chapital, and another by Federal District doctors accompanied by members of the Federal Judicial Police.

Criminologists, who were asked about how Colosio was wounded, said it is improbable his body would have acted the way the attorney general said had the first shot been to the head. They said that definitely, the shots to the lower part of his body must have been fired first because there are reports that Colosio put his hands on his abdomen and he would not have been able to do that had the first shot been to his brain.

Some policemen have explained: "If you want to kill someone you bring him down first and then you finish him off with a shot to the head." The policemen noted that considering the height of the victim and that of the killer, it appears impossible Colosio could have received the wounds officially reported. The policemen noted: "Have you seen how bulls tumble when they are dealt the coup de grace with a dagger? This is how Colosio would have dropped had the first shot been to the head." They went on: "The body goes limp and flabby and the arms fall to the side of the body."

Anibal Colosio, a cousin of the late candidate who was at the site, said that immediately after the attack, he saw

Colosio fall "to his knees." According to some people, Colosio placed his hands on his abdomen. Others claim they heard at least three shots. This apparently is confirmed by a picture taken by Gauthier. The picture shows Colosio's position when he fell. It shows his back and his hands as if trying to grab his stomach at the time some people try to put him on his back. The people interviewed explained that this shows that Colosio was finished off with a shot to the head and this has moved the PGR to redouble its efforts. It became known this morning that Attorney General Diego Valadez and his closest aides have traveled to Tijuana again.

Finally, with regard to the discovery of a video showing the moment Aburto places the gun near the candidate's head, consulted experts have mentioned the possibility of a photographic gimmick. These experts pointed to the darkness of the video and recalled that the attack took place shortly after 1700, when it was still daylight. They affirmed that the picture is so nebulous that a photomontage gimmick is conceivable.

The same experts also pointed out the position of the killer's hand noting that "considering the way the revolver was raised and its height, it had to be noticed by security people, who in the face of such a situation would have killed the aggressor before he could have taken aim." As policemen, the experts said, we think this film could have been "fixed" in the evening. This fits reports received by EL UNIVERSAL the night of the attack. Those reports speak of members of the military staff reconstructing the events. The people of Lomas Taurinas asked reporters: "What is the use of doing that now?"

This newspaper has been informed of another noteworthy thing: Alleged federal agents reportedly from Sonora State, videotaped absolutely everything having to do with the PRI candidate. Sources close to the PGR have also reported that "on the night of the crime," Attorney General Diego Valadez "saw the video over and over."

Regarding what happened to the arrested man the day of the crime, EL UNIVERSAL has been informed that (after the people tried to lynch him) he was placed in a suburban van occupied by at least 10 other persons. The commander of Tijuana's Municipal Tactical Group tried to prevent them from taking Aburto away because the people were afraid Aburto would be killed. One of the people in the van, however, identified himself as member of the military staff and the van was allowed to drive away. People who were close to the van when the rifle-wielding commander of the tactical group stopped it, have reported that this police chief told the people in the van: "I will let you keep going, but I want this man alive when he gets to the Attorney General's Office."

### Three Presidential Candidates on Zedillo Nomination

PA3003144794 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[From the "Early Morning" newscast]

[Text] Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon will run for office on 21 August against the other eight presidential candidates. Three of them have expressed their opinions on the nomination of Zedillo Ponce de Leon.

[Begin recording] [Diego Fernandez de Cevallos, candidate for the National Action Party] By reason of the public posts that Dr. Zedillo and I have held, I have been in direct contact with him. I consider him to be a respectable man and politician. Now that the PRI [Institutional Revolutionary Party] has appointed him to replace Luis Donaldo Colosio, may he rest in peace, I once again have an opponent.

[Rafael Aguilar Talamantes, candidate for the Cardenist Front for National Reconstruction Party] I imagine he must be good because he has a long history of public service. When I was in jail back in 1966, Zedillo was one of the students from the Polytechnic Institute who participated in a march called The Path for Freedom, that demanded my freedom. At that time, I was a member of the National Association of Democratic Students. Ernesto Zedillo has a good record. He is going to be a great opponent for us. [end recording]

For Jorge Gonzalez Torres, candidate of the Mexican Green Ecologist Party, the selection of Ernesto Zedillo as new PRI candidate represents renewed hopes for democracy in our country. When asked about the PRI nomination, Gonzalez Torres pointed out that the voters will decide on Ernesto Zedillo's nomination on 21 August. He added that Luis Donaldo Colosio's death should not be used as sentimental blackmail, and votes should be cast in a reasonable and not emotional manner.

### Survey Checks Public Opinion on New PRI Candidate

PA3103031394

[Editorial Report] Monterrey EL NORTE (Foreign Edition) in Spanish on 30 March publishes on pages 1A and 10A a 150-word report on the results of a public opinion poll of Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon, the Institutional Revolutionary Party's (PRI) new presidential candidate.

The item, published under the headline "Zedillo Has A Good Image," is comprised of four pie charts that show the results of a survey conducted shortly after the PRI announced Zedillo as its new candidate. The survey questioned 407 people in Monterrey and the surrounding metropolitan area and 450 people in Mexico City. The item mentions three questions.

The first question was: "In general, what is your opinion of Ernesto Zedillo?" In Monterrey, 44 percent said they had a good opinion; 23 percent said they did not know anything about him; 18 percent said their opinion was neutral; 13 percent said they had a very good opinion; and 2 percent they had a bad opinion. In Mexico City, 39 percent responded positively; 29 percent did not know anything about him; 22 percent were neutral; 5 percent had a bad opinion; 4 percent a very good opinion; and 1 percent a very bad opinion.

The second question was: "What do you think are the PRI's chances of winning the presidency of the republic with Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon as its candidate? Good, little, or none." The report gives the general response to this question; it does not give separate percentages for each of the places polled. The results were: 64 percent said good; 27 percent said little; 6 percent said they did not know; and 3 percent said none.

The third question was: "Would you vote for Ernesto Zedillo Ponce de Leon?" The item also gives a general response to this question. Results: 65 percent said yes; 19 percent said no; and 15 percent said they did not know.

#### **Pemex Director Issues Annual Report**

PA3003142794 Mexico City Canal 13 Television Azteca Network in Spanish 1910 GMT 21 Mar 94

[Annual petroleum report read by General Director Francisco Rojas during an event marking the 56th anniversary of oil expropriation at the Mexican Petroleum headquarters in Mexico City; date not given; from the "At Midday" newscast—recorded]

[Excerpt] Mr. President, a little more than five years ago you took office. Today, Mexico is a country that owns its future more. It follows specific paths, it is better organized, more sure of itself and its enormous potential for advancement. You have undertaken your duties with patriotism and are fulfilling the responsibilities given to you by the people.

As in past years, in 1993, Mexican Petroleum [Pemex] worked following the main guidelines of your policy, the defense of oil. All actions taken follow these main guidelines. This explains the efforts made to make Pemex efficient and make it highly competitive. An in-depth administration reorganization was conducted. The four Pemex subsidiaries are working normally. Pemex reported a reduction in its debt by \$68 million. In other words, the total plan for investment was carried out with our own resources.

For a third consecutive year, the production level for total liquid hydrocarbons surpassed the record reached in 1982. The total production for 1993 reached 3.131 million barrels per day, of which 1.794 million barrels were assigned for domestic consumption and 1.337 million barrels for exports. In the past three years, an increase in the reserves of hydrocarbons allowed restoring three-quarters of the production extracted during that period, thus reversing a long-standing trend.

The creation of Pemex-Gas and Basic Petrochemicals [Petroquímica Básica] was a prelude to the significance the use of clean fuels and basic raw material will have in processing petrochemicals in Mexico and worldwide. The production of natural gas reached 3.576 billion [figure as heard] cubic feet a day while that of liquefied gas reached 103,000 barrels a day.

Environmental protection, industrial safety, and energy savings have been placed at the forefront of Pemex's program. Several preventive and active programs have been encouraged in close cooperation with the Social Development Secretariat and the Metropolitan Commission for the Prevention and Control of Environmental Pollution to the Valley of Mexico. During the last fiscal period, more than 215 installation safety inspections were carried out by insurance companies and specialized corporations, as well as more than 1,000 environmental impact studies. Following strict budgetary constraints, Pemex has been able to improve its financial position, meet its production and marketing objectives, and implement internal restructuring. In addition, it has promoted a new institutional culture through the adoption of modern operational practices in a state owned enterprise.

At the end of this administration, Pemex will have transferred to the Treasury \$106 billion over a six year period. Pemex's assets totals \$50 billion and the value of proven reserves, valued at \$13 per barrel is approximately equal to \$850 billion. In addition, Mexican sovereignty over subterranean resources and revenues from crude oil exploration assures energy security as well as an instrument to realize structural changes in the Mexican economy. The question we should now ask is if we Mexicans are willing to transfer ownership, management, or use of this patrimony to private interests? PEMEX workers have expressed solidarity with the companies' institutional objectives, and cooperated in moving forward toward goals of modernization.

The workers union has been intransigent in defending its collective contract, but it has preferred the collective interest over outdated demands for economic concessions and political power. Now, one year after the law was promulgated, we can feel satisfaction to report that Pemex's new organization system has been implemented and is working; the four subsidiary companies are operating normally; and the benefits of the reforms are beginning to capitalize.

Noteworthy is the fact that efficiency has reduced operation costs by 39 percent during 1981-93, 29 percent for the current six-year period. Yearly savings for 1994 represent 60 percent of the investment plan. Not only has the oil community put an end to the waste of the past, but it has also organized the true defense of the nation's institutional interests for the future. [passage omitted]

#### **Correction to Former Interior Minister Interview** PA2903033994

The following correction pertains to the item headlined "Former Interior Secretary Interviewed," published in the 29 March Latin American DAILY REPORT, pages 21-26.

Page 22, column one, first paragraph, penultimate sentence make read: ...tactic of guerrilla focus. That is why.... (replacing "focus" with "focos") Autoprocessing Division

**El Salvador****No Majority Winner in Election Forces Runoff***PA3003235194 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 2201 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] San Salvador, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—The ruling Nationalist Republican Alliance (ARENA) captured 49.05 percent of the votes in the 20 March election, while the leftist coalition, partly formed by former guerrillas, garnered 24.9 percent of the votes. Today, the Salvadoran Supreme Electoral Tribunal (TSE) announced that as a result, a runoff election will be held. The right-wing ARENA candidate, Armando Calderon Sol, fell just short of an absolute majority (over 50 percent of the votes). He will face Ruben Zamora, from the leftist coalition, in a runoff on 24 April.

After 10 days of vote counting, the TSE has announced the official election results and has scheduled runoff elections, the date for which has already been agreed upon although it will be officially announced in 72 hours. Electoral authorities have not yet announced official results of legislative and municipal elections, also held on 20 March, in which, according to the provisional vote count, the two leading groups won percentages similar to those in the presidential election.

Yesterday Calderon acknowledged he had not won an absolute majority and announced his participation in the runoff. This despite the fact that while the vote count was still proceeding Calderon asked Zamora to withdraw from the runoff and concede the election.

Zamora was nominated by former guerrillas of the Farabundo Marti National Liberation Front (FMLN) and by the social democratic parties: Democratic Convergence (CD) and the National Revolutionary Movement (MNR).

According to official presidential election results, ARENA won 641,108 votes, which represent 49.05 percent; the leftist coalition 325,582 (24.90 percent); and the Christian Democratic Party (PDC) 214,277 votes (16.39 percent). The National Conciliation Party (conservative) garnered 70,504 votes (5.39 percent); the Unity Movement (MU, evangelical), 31,502 votes (2.41 percent); and the National Solidarity Movement (MSN, evangelical) 13,841 votes (1.06 percent). The Authentic Christian Movement (MAC, right-wing), which nominated a woman for the presidency, Rhina Escalante de Rey Prendes, was unable to attract the 1 percent needed to stay alive in the political arena and thus will cease to exist as a political party. The total number of votes cast in the presidential election was 1,411,320, of which 4,849 were challenged, 70,503 were annulled, and 28,311 were blank.

Even though the TSE did not announce official figures for abstentionism and even though the total number of eligible voters (some 2.5 million) has not been provided

due to census problems, the provisional vote count placed abstention at around 45 percent.

Jaime Romero Ventura, a TSE magistrate, said that today, political parties will be officially notified that a runoff will be held so they can resort to any available legal mechanisms. He added that according to the law, 72 hours must pass once results are announced so any party can appeal before the TSE can officially call a runoff in the presidential election. Romero Ventura said Easter might delay the announcement until Tuesday, the first working day after the holiday, when the TSE would announce the results and call a runoff election between ARENA and the leftist coalition.

The two political forces have already begun campaigning and molding alliances with their sights set on 24 April, even though the main potential source of additional votes, the PDC, has announced it will not support either candidate. Of the smaller organizations, the PCN, traditionally linked to the military, has already expressed its support for ARENA, an organization already favored to win the election.

The 20 March elections, witnessed by some 3,000 international observers, were held without major incident. They were the first elections in the country since the 1992 peace agreements between the FMLN and the Alfredo Cristiani government, which ended 12 years of civil war.

**PCN To Support ARENA in Runoff***PA3103032094 San Salvador EL DIARIO DE HOY in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p 85*

[Text] In one of the first expressions of support in light of the upcoming second round of elections, the presidential candidate for the National Conciliation Party [PCN] that, according to the vote count, came in fourth in the first round of elections, has said that his party will support the Nationalist Republican Alliance [ARENA].

Colonel Roberto Escobar Garcia, a lawyer and PCN secretary general, said yesterday that his party will support ARENA in the runoff. Even though the Supreme Electoral Tribunal has not made an official announcement, there are indications that it will be held on 24 April.

According to political observers, ARENA should not pursue an alliance in confronting the left in the runoff because it has enough strength to defeat all the leftist parties combined. They also believe Fidel Chavez Mena does not have the leadership to call on the rank and file to vote for ARENA.

## Guatemala

### Government Communique on Attack on U.S. Citizen

PA3103050394 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 0427 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Communique issued by the government in Guatemala City on 30 March]

[Text] The Guatemalan Government reports given the crimes that occurred in San Cristobal Verapaz on 29 March 1994:

1. That after having completed initial investigations and judicial proceedings, it is evident that certain residents of San Cristobal Verapaz acted criminally and very seriously injured U.S. citizen (June Diane Weinstock), who was in that region as a tourist.

They also seriously injured the judge, officials, administrative justice of the peace personnel, and members of the national media, the Red Cross, the Firefighters Corps, and public force personnel stationed in that region. In addition, judicial files were damaged. This has undoubtedly undermined the interests and human rights of hundreds of people who have been or are being prosecuted in that jurisdiction.

2. The Guatemalan Government, based on the spontaneous testimony of countless residents of that place, recognizes the innocence and honorability of the U.S. citizen, who was brutally attacked, and assumes responsibility for the medical attention that her situation may require. The same treatment will be granted to fellow citizens whose condition warrants it. The government vigorously condemns this violent act.

3. The action of these groups is reflected in the dissemination of unfounded rumors and appearance of graffiti [legendas] in the country's towns and highways that link innocent U.S. citizens to the stealing of and trafficking in minors. The apparent goal of this is to create an atmosphere of insecurity and instability in the country.

4. This provocation seeks to jeopardize Guatemala's relations with friendly nations.

5. The government appeals to the public, urging people not to be deceived by the propagation of groundless rumors and the manipulation of inexact and biased information aimed at creating an atmosphere of social unrest. It states that it will not tolerate individual or group actions perpetrated with the intention of taking the law into their own hands. It pledges to strictly enforce existing laws against those who commit these crimes.

### Further on Attack

PA3003174794 Panama City ACAN in Spanish 1459 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Guatemala City, 30 Mar (ACAN-EFE)—June Diane Werwitok, a U.S. tourist who has been accused of stealing children by a group of neighbors in the northern

town of San Cristobal Verapaz, had her "skull and her right arm broken by a mob of peasants" who tried to lynch her.

A police source told ACAN-EFE today that the 54-year-old tourist was in that Alta Verapaz Department town when 20 peasants started chasing her because allegedly she had stolen a child. Diane, who is from Florida State, was able to find refuge in the town's court building, which was later partially destroyed when the enraged peasants attacked it with rocks, sticks, and other objects and set court files on fire.

The incident took place Tuesday. The Army was sent to the town and gained control of the situation, according to volunteer firefighters. The source noted that the U.S. woman suffered a broken skull, her right arm was also broken, and was hit and stabbed in several parts of her body. After receiving first aid in San Cristobal Verapaz, the woman was admitted to a Guatemala City hospital because of the seriousness of the wounds. Diane was looking for a place to stay in the town when she was attacked by the peasants, the source reported.

This attack comes 22 days after another U.S. woman, Melisa Carol Larsen, 37, was almost lynched by Santa Lucia Cotzumalguapa peasants who accused her of forming part of a band dedicated to the abduction and trafficking of children. Carol Larsen was protected by the police and this brought about serious street demonstrations that resulted in 32 wounded persons, 52 arrests, and a small police station burned. This woman was set free a few days later when a court was unable to establish that she had been involved in the abduction of children.

The Attorney General's Office revealed today that so far in 1994 it has received 66 files on child-stealing cases. A police source has informed ACAN-EFE about the arrest of three Guatemalan women accused of abducting as many children in this capital.

### U.S. Tourist Shot, Robbed

PA3003220494 Guatemala City Cadena de Emisoras Unidas in Spanish 2115 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by Jorge Cendis from the "News Patrol" newscast]

[Text] A U.S. tourist identified as (Duncan Milliet Aitena), 42, has been attacked by the occupants of a vehicle that sped away after stripping him of his valuables. This occurred while the tourist was riding a motorcycle, license plate No. M-91,869.

The victim was shot four times in the body and was dying as he was taken to the emergency room of the [name indistinct] Medical Center by paramedics of the Municipal Firefighters Corps who came to help the victim aboard Unit No. R-39.

**Government, URNG Sign Negotiations Timetable**  
*PA3103025594 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Mar 94 p 3*

["Timetable Agreement" signed by the Guatemalan Government and Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity in Mexico City on 29 March]

[Text] Reaffirming a decision made through the Basic Agreement of 10 January 1994 to negotiate all the points of the general topics adopted in Mexico in April 1991;

Reaffirming their commitment to achieve a firm and lasting peace agreement as soon as possible in 1994;

Reaffirming the role of the Assembly of Civilian Society [Asamblea de la Sociedad Civil] in dealing with the main issues, the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG), which will be henceforth referred to as "the parties," agree to the following:

1. Establish the following timetable as a guide to continue working on pending topics on the negotiating agenda:

May 1994: Negotiation of the topic: Resettlement of people displaced by the armed confrontation. Signing of Agreement.

June 1994: Negotiation of the topic: Identity and rights of the Indian peoples. Signing of Agreement.

July 1994: Negotiation of the topic: Socioeconomic issues and status of the agricultural sector.

August 1994: Negotiation of the topic: Strengthening of civilian power and the Army's role in a democratic society.

September 1994: Negotiation of the topics: Bases for the integration of the URNG into the country's political life and agreement for a definitive cease-fire. Signing of the three previous agreements.

October 1994: Negotiation of the topic: Constitutional reforms and electoral regime. Signing of Agreement.

November 1994: Negotiation of the topic: Schedule for the preparation, implementation, and verification of the agreements. Signing of Agreement.

December 1994: Signing of a firm and lasting peace agreement at the start of the demobilization process.

2. The parties may agree to adjust this timetable as warranted to ensure the success of the negotiation.

3. The moderator, in consultation with the parties, will establish the specific date for each round of negotiations. He will also establish, after consulting the parties and the president of the Assembly of Civilian Society, the most advisable dates for holding special sessions to convey to the parties, in due time, the assembly's recommendations and guidelines on key issues.

4. The parties, in keeping with the Basic Agreement of 10 January 1994, will take into account these recommendations and guidelines.

5. As basic documents for the negotiation of the key issues, the parties agree to use the original or updated versions of the following documents: "A Just and Democratic Peace: Content of the Negotiation" published by the URNG in May 1992 and "Peace is Not Only Absence of War but the Creation of a Set of Conditions Allowing Man To Live Without Anguish and Fear" published by the Guatemalan Government in June 1992. The parties will present their proposals in due time to allow each party to examine them and discuss them in the corresponding rounds.

6. The parties reaffirm the advisability of using all measures that may lead to rapprochement or agreements between them and agree to reply to initiatives that the moderator may present in this regard.

Mexico City, Federal District, 29 March 1994

For the Government of the Republic of Guatemala: Hector Rosada Granados, Mario Permouth, Antonio Arenales Forno, Ernesto Viteri Echeverria, General Carlos Enrique Pineda Carranza, Gen. Julio Arnoldo Balconi Turcios, and Gen. Jose Horacio Soto Galan.

For the URNG General Command: Commander Pablo Monsanto [nom de guerre of Jose Soto Garcia], Commander Rolando Moran, Commander Gaspar Ilom [nom de guerre of Rodrigo Asturias Amado], and Commander Carlos Gonzalez.

Political-Diplomatic Commission: Luis Felipe Becker Guzman, Miguel Angel Sandoval Vasquez, Francisco Villagran Munoz, and Mario Vinicio Castaneda Paz (advisor).

For the United Nations: Marrack Goulding, under secretary general; Jean Arnault, moderator.

**Sign Human Rights Agreement**

*PA3103014794 Guatemala City PRENSA LIBRE in Spanish 30 Mar 94 pp 3, 47, 48*

["General Agreement on Human Rights"—PRENSA LIBRE headline]

[Text] Preamble

Taking into account existing constitutional provisions, treaties, conventions, and other international instruments on human rights to which Guatemala subscribes;

Taking into account the will of the Guatemalan Government and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity (URNG) to ensure that the agreement on human rights and international verification is implemented in keeping with said constitutional provisions and international treaties;

Taking into account the Guatemalan Government's commitment to respect and promote human rights, in keeping with the constitutional mandate;

Taking into account the URNG assumed the commitment to respect the inherent attributes of human beings and to ensure that they actually enjoy their human rights;

The government of the Republic of Guatemala and the URNG, which will be subsequently referred to as "the parties," agree to:

**1. General agreement on human rights**

1.1 The Government of the Republic of Guatemala reaffirms its adherence to principles and rules seeking to guarantee and protect full observance of human rights and its political will to ensure they are respected.

1.2 The Government of the Republic of Guatemala will continue to promote all measures designed to promote and improve rules and mechanisms designed to protect human rights.

**2. Strengthening institutions charged with protecting human rights**

2.1 The parties believe that any behavior that limits, restricts, or jeopardizes duties pertaining to human rights assigned to the judicial branch, Ombudsman for Human Rights, and the Public Prosecutor's Office undermines basic principles of a law-abiding state. Thus, the efforts of such institutions to fulfill such duties must be supported and strengthened.

2.2 As for the judicial branch and the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Government of the Republic of Guatemala reaffirms its willingness to respect their autonomy and to protect the freedom of action for both of them against pressure of any sort or origin to ensure that they fully enjoy the guarantees and instruments that they need to operate efficiently.

2.3 As for the Ombudsman for Human Rights, the Government of the Republic of Guatemala will continue to support his work, strengthening his position by supporting his actions and promoting reforms that might be needed to ensure that he will be able to better fulfill his duties and responsibilities. The Government of the Republic of Guatemala will support initiatives aimed at improving the technical and material conditions that the Ombudsman for Human Rights might have at his disposal to fulfill his tasks of investigating, overseeing, and following up on the full observance of human rights in Guatemala.

**3. Commitment against impunity**

3.1 The parties agree that firm action must be adopted against impunity. The government will not promote the adoption of legislative measures or of any sort to prevent the trial and punishment of those found responsible for human rights violations.

3.2 The Government of the Republic of Guatemala will promote, via the legislative branch, necessary legal modifications to the penal code to classify and punish, especially with regard to serious crimes, forceful or involuntary disappearances and summary or extrajudicial executions. The government will also promote, via the international community, the recognition of crimes against humanity, forced and involuntary disappearances, and summary or extrajudicial executions.

No special laws [fuero] or exclusive jurisdiction [jurisdiccion privativa] may be used to provide impunity for human rights violations.

**4. Commitment to eliminate illegal security groups and clandestine organizations and regulate the bearing of arms**

4.1 In order to maintain absolute respect for human rights, illegal groups or clandestine organizations should be dissolved. The Government of the Republic acknowledges its responsibility in fighting any such groups.

4.2 The Government of the Republic of Guatemala reiterates its commitment to continue purging and professionalizing security organizations. It also acknowledges the need to continue drafting and adopting effective measures to accurately regulate the ownership, bearing, and use of firearms by individuals in accordance with the law.

**5. Guarantees of freedom of association and movement**

5.1 Both parties agree that the right to free association, movement, and locomotion are human rights recognized internationally and constitutionally which must be exercised in accordance with the law and given full validity in Guatemala.

5.2 The Ombudsman for Human Rights, in the exercise of his duties, will be in charge of verifying if members of the Volunteer Committees for Civil Defense have been forced to join these groups against their will and if they have committed human rights violations.

5.3 The Ombudsman for Human Rights will immediately conduct the necessary investigation of complaints submitted to him. In order to do this, after informing the public that membership in such committees be voluntary and respectful of the law and human rights, consultations will be held with the population to ensure that the will of committee members is expressed freely and without any pressures.

5.4 If transgressions against the volunteer nature of these organizations or the legal order are confirmed, the Ombudsman for Human Rights will adopt those decisions he deems appropriate and will promote the pertinent legal or administrative actions to punish human rights violations.

5.5 The Government of the Republic unilaterally declares that it will not support the organization nor will it arm new Volunteer Committees for Civil Defense nationwide so long as there are no circumstances to motivate these actions. The URNG considers the government's statement as a positive expression of its will to achieve peace and facilitate the objectives of the statement.

5.6 Those affected will approach the municipal mayor, who will convene a public meeting and call on the Ombudsman for Human Rights to verify, through all available means, the volunteer nature as well as the decision of the residents.

5.7 Both parties agree that other aspects of the Volunteer Committees for Civil Defense will be dealt with later, once other points of the general agenda are discussed.

5.8 The parties recognize the educational and informative work carried out by the Human Rights Ombudsman's Office and request that it include information on the content and significance of the current agreement.

**6. Military conscription**

6.1 Conscription for obligatory military service must not be forced or become an occasion for violation of human

rights. Therefore, in keeping with its nature as a civic duty and right, it must be just and nondiscriminatory.

6.2 Toward this end, the Guatemalan Government will continue making the necessary administrative decisions and will promote, as soon as possible and in the spirit of this agreement, a new law on military service.

#### 7. Guarantees and protection of people and groups working to protect human rights

7.1 The parties agree that all actions that might threaten the security of those people or groups that work to promote and protect human rights must be condemned.

7.2 To this end, the Government of the Republic of Guatemala will take special measures to protect the people or organizations that work on human rights. Furthermore, it will opportunely and exhaustively investigate charges surrounding actions or threats that could negatively affect them.

7.3 The Government of the Republic of Guatemala reiterates its commitment to guarantee and effectively protect the work to defend human rights carried out by individuals and organizations.

#### 8 Compensation and/or assistance to victims of human rights violations

8.1 The parties admit it is their humane duty to compensate and/or assist victims of human rights violations. This compensation and/or assistance will be embodied in government measures and civic and socioeconomic programs. Such actions will be accorded priority status and will be addressed to those who social and economic conditions are the most needy.

#### 9 Human rights and the internal armed confrontation

9.1 Until the agreement for a firm and lasting peace is signed, both parties will acknowledge the need to end the suffering of the civilian population and to respect the human rights of the injured, captured, and those who are not part of the fighting.

9.2 These statements by the parties do not constitute a special agreement in regard to Article 8 (common), Point 2, Paragraph 2, of the 1949 Geneva Convention.

#### International verification by the United Nations

1. The parties reaffirm their decision, included in the 10 January 1994 Framework Agreement, to have all agreements be accompanied by appropriate national and international verification mechanisms. Also, the United Nations will be in charge of the international verification.

2. In this context, the parties agree to ask the UN secretary general to organize a mission to verify the human rights situation and compliance with commitments established in the agreement. The mission will form part of the global verification of the agreement for firm and lasting peace which the parties have agreed to sign as soon as possible this year.

3. The parties acknowledge the importance of national institutions, such as the judicial branch, the Attorney General's Office, and the Ombudsman for Human Rights, which are responsible for the validity, observance, and guarantee of human rights in the country. They especially emphasize the importance of the role of the Ombudsman for Human Rights.

4. The parties agree to ask the UN secretary general to establish a Verification Commission, taking the following into account:

#### Functions:

5. The mission will be assigned the following duties in verifying the human rights situation:

i. It will receive, assess, and follow up on charges of possible human rights violations.

ii. It will check that corresponding national organizations conduct the necessary investigations autonomously and effectively and in accordance to the Constitution of the Republic of Guatemala and international human rights norms.

iii. It will issue statements on the existence or nonexistence of human rights violations based on the evidence it can obtain in exercising its responsibilities as expressed in Article 10, Subparagraphs i), ii), iii), and iv), and will take into account investigations by the corresponding constitutional institutions.

6. The mission will verify other commitments in the current agreement and will determine the correct compliance of the parties.

7. According to the results of their verification activities, the mission will make recommendations to the parties, especially regarding measures necessary to promoting full observance of human rights and strict compliance with all points in the current agreement.

8. The mission will establish commissions for bilateral dialogue with each of the parties so as to allow comment on the mission's recommendations and thus speed the implementation of the preceding measures.

9. The mission will regularly send reports to the UN secretary general, who will brief this organization's responsible officials. Copies of the reports will be sent to the parties.

10. The mission is authorized to:

i) Settle and freely move about the national territory.

ii) Freely and privately meet with any person or group of persons for the appropriate fulfillment of its functions.

iii) Freely visit, without prior notification and whenever it is considered necessary for the fulfillment of its functions, state agencies as well as URNG camps.

iv) Gather the information needed to fulfill its mandate.

11. The mission may address the public through the media to disseminate information in connection with its functions and activities.

12. Within the verification of compliance with human rights, the mission will give special attention to the right to live, personal integrity and safety, individual freedom, the right to a fair trial, freedom of expression, freedom of movement, freedom to organize, and political rights.

13. When carrying out its functions, the mission will bear in mind the situation of the most vulnerable social groups in society and the people most directly affected by the military conflict (including displaced people, refugees, and returning refugees).

14. The mission's activities will address events and situations that occur after its installation.

15. To implement the general pledge on human rights (Chapter I of this agreement), the parties recognize as

human rights those defined by the Guatemalan legal system, including treaties, conventions, and other international instruments on the subject to which Guatemala is a signatory.

**Cooperation with and support for national human rights organizations**

16. The parties agree on the need for international verification to help strengthen permanent constitutional organizations, and other government and nongovernment agencies, for the protection of human rights. In support of them, the verification mission will have the means to:

i) Cooperate with national organizations and agencies in all that is necessary for the effective protection and promotion of human rights. It will specifically advocate technical cooperation programs and carry out activities to strengthen government agencies.

ii) Offer its support to the judicial branch and auxiliary organizations, the Attorney General's Office, the Ombudsman for Human Rights, and the presidential human rights commission to help perfect and consolidate national organizations for the defense of human rights and an appropriate legal process.

iii) Sponsor international technical and financial cooperation required to strengthen the capability of the Ombudsman for Human Rights, and other national institutions and agencies, so that they may execute their functions in the human rights sector.

iv) Help develop a culture of respect for human rights in cooperation with the state and the different groups of which society is comprised.

**Duration and structure of the mission**

17. The mission will initially be established for one year; its mandate may be renewed.

18. The verification mission will be led by a chief, appointed by the UN Secretary General. He will have at his disposal international and national officials and experts in various specialties who are necessary to carry out the mission's duties. The Government of the Republic of Guatemala and the mission will sign the corresponding agreement concerning its headquarters, in accordance with the 1946 Vienna convention on diplomatic privileges and immunities.

**Putting the international verification mission into operation**

19. Taking into consideration their willingness to sponsor human rights in the country and the fact that the current agreement's provisions reflect constitutional rights already included in Guatemalan laws; and considering the international mission's task of strengthening national agencies and entities for the protection of human rights, particularly the Ombudsman for Human Rights, the parties recognize that it is advisable to begin verification of the human rights agreement, on an exceptional basis, before the agreement for a firm and durable peace is signed.

20. Given that the verification mission will begin its operations before the military conflict ends, and given that military operations continue, the mission will coordinate the necessary security measures.

21. The parties agree to immediately ask the UN secretary general to send a preliminary mission as soon as possible so that it may prepare the establishment of a mission within the shortest time possible and in coordination with the parties and to evaluate the financial and technical requirements essential to the verification of the human rights agreement.

**Cooperation of the parties with the verification commission**

22. The parties pledge to offer their fullest support to the mission and, in this regard, are dutybound to provide all the cooperation required to fulfill its functions, particularly in guaranteeing the safety of mission members or people who submit reports or who testify.

23. The international verification carried out by the mission will be done within the framework of this agreement's provisions. Any situation which arises in connection with the scope of this agreement will be settled through talks, as foreseen in Number 8.

**Final provisions**

First: This agreement will become effective on the date it is signed by the two parties.

Second: This agreement will be part of the agreement for a firm and durable peace.

Third: A copy of this agreement will be sent by the parties to the UN secretary general and the Ombudsman for Human Rights.

Fourth: This agreement will be fully publicized at national level, both in Spanish and in the Indian languages. The Ombudsman for Human Rights and the pertinent government offices will be in charge of this.

Mexico City, 29 March, 1994.

For the Government of the Republic of Guatemala: Hector Rosada Granados, Mario Permut, Antonio F. Arenales Forno, Ernesto Viteri Echeverria, General Carlos Enrique Pineda Carranza, Gen. Julio Arnoldo Balconi Turcios, Gen. Jose Horacio Soto Salan.

Joint Declaration by the Guatemalan Government and the URNG.

With the intention of allowing the signing of the human rights agreement, a historical achievement within the peace process in Guatemala, the parties have decided that the analysis of the issue concerning a commission to investigate human rights violations during the military conflict will be concluded in a special session of negotiations without harming the concurrence which already exists on this topic. The parties have asked the moderator to proceed with the necessary consultations and to convoke a special session in May 1994.

Hector Rosada, coordinator of the Guatemalan Government Peace Commission; Pablo Monsanto, coordinator of the URNG delegation.

**Vice President Defends Ministerial Appointment**

PA3103025894 Guatemala City SIGLO VEINTIUNO in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 59

[Text] Vice President Arturo Herbruger Asturias has defended the appointment of a military officer to the post of deputy minister of government and has noted that he does not understand why the UN recommends

the opposite as there is a tendency around the world to incorporate military personnel into state civilian organizations. He explained: We are talking about a deputy minister, not about a government minister. I think, he added, there will be no problem. Besides, they are citizens too and have a right to participate in the country's political life.

When asked about the policy to demilitarize society, he said he agrees with it, although he noted that we are already a civilian society where the Army always plays an important role.

Meanwhile, Adolfo Reyes, the person in charge of security matters, has said he believes the presidential decision to appoint an officer to the post of deputy government minister is adequate but contrasts with recommendations from UN human rights experts. Christian Tomuschat and Monica Pinto, of the United Nations, have recommended that civilian authorities lead civilian security corps, something adhered to by the previous administration, he said.

Reyes explained this was a presidential order exercising a sovereign right in an effort to find suitable ways to fight crime. Reyes stated: It looks like this is the time for the military to occupy some positions. This decision must be respected. Reyes said that differences must not be established among Guatemalans based on their professions because what is important is respect for human rights and constitutional public order.

Reyes confirmed he had resigned from his post. He submitted his resignation to new Government Minister Danilo Parrinello and to President Ramiro de Leon Carpio because the leave of absence granted him by the Bank of Guatemala expires on 15 April. If he does not resign now, this leave would be extended another year. Reyes said Danilo Parrinello and de Leon Carpio asked him to stay on the job, but he admitted that it would be difficult to remain in this post because I did not help draft the security plan for which they will be responsible. Reyes noted that today, he and the government minister will go to the Bank of Guatemala to talk to the bank's president, Willy Zapata, about the possibility of Reyes continuing as an adviser on public security issues.

## Argentina

### Brazilian Foreign Minister Confirms Wheat Purchase

PY3003153394 Madrid EFE in Spanish 2350 GMT 24 Mar 94

[Text] Buenos Aires, 24 Mar (EFE)—Brazilian Foreign Minister Celso Amorim has assured his Argentine counterpart Guido Di Tella that Brazil will exceed its commitment to purchase a minimum of 2 million tonnes of wheat from Argentina during 1994.

In a note sent yesterday and disseminated today, 24 March, Amorim reiterated his government's willingness to maintain regular contacts with Argentine officials to follow up developments on wheat imports.

Amorim added that the Brazilian Foreign Trade Secretariat is investigating Brazilian wheat purchases from Canada and Germany in terms of GATT provisions concerning "dumping" and subsidies.

Amorim described the imports of Argentine wheat as "strategic" for the implementation of the Program for Integration and Cooperation developed by the two countries since 1986.

Amorim said that Brazilian mills "were the first to acknowledge that the purchase of Argentine wheat is more advantageous in light of tariff reductions provided under the Common Market of the South (Mercosur), the exemption of other duties, and lower freight costs stemming from the fact that Argentina and Brazil are neighbors."

Amorim noted that the estimated amount of wheat Brazil will have to import this harvest year to meet domestic needs stands at 5.6 million tonnes.

### President Menem Fires Securities Commission Head

PY3003231794 Buenos Aires NOTICIAS  
ARGENTINAS in Spanish 1057 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Excerpts] Buenos Aires, 29 Mar (NA)—The government has ended the serious crisis in the Finance Ministry by decreeing "the dismissal" of National Securities Commission President Martin Redrado, who systematically refused to leave the post despite losing the political support he had in the government.

Economy Minister Domingo Cavallo appointed Investments Under Secretary Guillermo Haterneck to replace Redrado, thus making sure that one of his trusted men is at the head of an organization considered vital for the development of the capital market.

Redrado's resistance to leaving his post forced the government to evaluate two alternative decrees, one dismissing Redrado and another one accepting his resignation.

Carlos Corach, presidential technical and legal secretary, met with Redrado until late last night trying unsuccessfully to convince him to adopt the least traumatic solution.

But Redrado did not accept the suggestion to resign and the executive branch had to dismiss him, thus ending his ongoing confrontation with Cavallo.

About midnight, before leaving for India, President Carlos Menem signed the decree "firing" Redrado.

Alone and without much visible support in the government, Redrado, who is only 32, saw how his last hopes were disappearing on 28 March. [passage omitted]

The only support Redrado received was from the pensioners, because Norma Pla went to the National Securities Commission to applaud what was done in the process for selling YPF [Government Oil Deposits] shares in the pensioners' hands.

This is the issue that led to Redrado's critical situation when he rejected the first proposal presented by the U.S. firms Merrill Lynch and First Boston.

Although the second proposal had the endorsement of the first government position, the strong support for the pensioners irritated the already sensitive feelings of Cavallo, who convinced Menem of the need to get Redrado to resign.

The old disagreements between the two officials were revived in the last few months due to their different points of view on the destinations of funds for the Pension Fund Managing Companies.

Minister Cavallo and Felipe Murolo, superintendent of the Pension Fund Managing Companies, wanted well-established guidelines for the system, but Redrado wanted to give the greatest freedom possible to the investors.

The abrupt drop in shares on 28 March convinced officials of the need to eradicate the uncertainty in the market.

### Positions of UCR Economic Advisers Discussed

94SM0292A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 13 Mar 94 p 3, Section 2

[Article by Eugenio Andrea Bruno: "Where Is Radicalism?"]

[Text] The opposition has as many economic programs as potential candidates for economy minister that it can offer society. The economic advisers of Eduardo Angeloz, Raul Alfonsin, and Fernando de la Rúa outline where they agree and disagree.

For some time now a heated political debate has been going on inside the Radical Civic Union (UCR).

There are three clearly defined political factions in the party: Raul Alfonsín's, Eduardo Angeloz's, and Fernando de la Rúa's.

And just as there are three different political approaches, there are as many factions in economic policy as well. If we were to plot economic policy on a spectrum with interventionism on one end and the free market on the other, then all indications are that the economic advisers of Angeloz (Ricardo Lopez Murphy and Francisco Mezzadri) would be closest to the market, De la Rúa's adviser (Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini) would be in the middle, and Juan Vital Sourrouille of the Alfonsín faction would be farthest to the left and closest to interventionism.

Our main question is: Are the economic philosophies within the UCR compatible?

The advisers themselves answer the question in a way designed to temper the argument. Mezzadri contends that "there is a lot more agreement than disagreement among the professional economists who belong to the UCR. We may have our differences about the approach to policies, but on key issues such as the need for a stable, open Argentina, I do not see substantial differences. There may be different assessments among politicians, but not among economists."

In the same vein, Mezzadri says that if Sourrouille were minister, in his opinion he would adhere to the guidelines of the Cavallo plan and not return to the previous approach. "I do not think that he would reverse course," he exclaims.

Rodriguez Giavarini explains that "the economists you have mentioned (myself, Lopez Murphy, Mezzadri, and Sourrouille) may be associated with different factions, but we belong to the same party. We share many views, from a defense of stability, concern over the effectiveness of government spending, and the dangers of excessive vulnerability, to the need to boost the rate of savings and investment."

#### No Consensus

Although the economists themselves contend that they agree on major issues, one has the feeling that the economic program of a hypothetical Radical government would differ depending on its economy minister. And the differences would involve substance, not just approach. Let us see.

It is obvious that Mezzadri and Rodriguez Giavarini do not think the same as Sourrouille. Whereas the former have praise for the Cavallo plan, Sourrouille criticizes it uncessingly.

For example, with regard to the labor reform, Mezzadri contends that if it were up to him, it would be more sweeping than even the administration's. "There has to be flexibility for managerial, technological, financial, and labor movements. In some cases such mobility takes

place easily, but in others, mainly labor, it does not exist at all. It is impossible to sustain an economic plan such as that with labor relations like the ones we have today."

Sourrouille, in contrast, feels that although labor relations have to be made somewhat more flexible, the administration's approach is leaving the workers altogether defenseless.

As for the exchange rate, Mezzadri says that it is the responsibility of Argentine businessmen to seek out new markets and to adopt an export-oriented stance. "The exchange rate has hurt some of them, but it has not impeded the growth of industrial exports...I do not see the exchange rate as a decisive obstacle. I do not think that those who say they cannot do anymore are working at peak economic efficiency." Yet, Angeloz's adviser thinks that more flexibility is indeed needed in internal factors in order to cut costs and improve competitiveness.

In contrast, we need only glance at Sourrouille's remarks to realize that he blames the economic plan, and more specifically the exchange rate, for the mounting trade deficit.

#### What Lies in Store

The future of the plan is another issue that divides them. Mezzadri's thinking in this regard is clear-cut. He calls on the administration to step up its program and under no circumstances to stray from the current economic discipline. Rodriguez Giavarini is even more categorical: "The outlook would darken if the administration decided to become passive, as if nothing were happening in the world or, worse yet, to try and keep fueling domestic demand as a short-term fiscal tool, like more government spending, to channel the proceeds from the pending privatizations into consumption, or else to close off the economy."

"The economic plan is unsustainable," said Sourrouille at a regional economic meeting of the UCR. The remark conceals an entire philosophy. In turn, we can hear this philosophy every day in Alfonsín's statements and, even more so, in the recent comments by Simon Lazzara ("A little bit of inflation would be acceptable if it boosted demand").

In short, a major faction of UCR politicians and economists feels that a marked change is needed in the rules of the game.

What we are looking at, when all is said and done, is a full-fledged debate within the UCR marked by an unmistakable clash of ideas. This is not bad, per se, for a political party. What is harmful is to try and conceal these differences for the sake of appearing united before society.

#### Mezzadri: "Social Investment Lacking"

Back when Angeloz still had hopes of becoming president, in 1989, two men had a chance to become his

economy minister. One was Lopez Murphy, and the other was Francisco Mezzadri, who in reply to a question from LA PRENSA emphasized that "there are fewer differences among UCR economists than there seem to be."

- "The best thing about the administration's plan is that it incorporated the idea of economic discipline."
- "You asked me whether I am going to be Angeloz's economy minister in 1995. Angeloz has a saying to answer that question: there are things that only he and his pillow know."
- "My labor reform would be much more thoroughgoing than the government's."
- "The State should not take action in the economic area, although it should do so efficiently in health care, education, defense, and security. In these fields the government should make social spending more efficient by setting goals and achieving them."
- "The administration is wasting its time on second-rate political matters, such as the reform of the constitution, when it ought to be devoting that time to completing pending tasks such as the labor reform and the provincial reforms."
- "The provinces ought to implement reform plans like the administration's plan. Only in this way will there be homogeneity in Argentina's economy."
- "A second reform of the State is currently lacking. The first, which had to do with bringing the idea of economic efficiency into Argentina, has already been successfully completed. Now, in order for these efforts to bear fruit, the government needs to address social investment more efficiently."

#### Sourrouille: "The Plan Is Unsustainable"

The former economy minister in the last UCR government resumed his criticism of Minister Cavallo's economic plan in his remarks to the UCR regional economic meeting.

- "There are two reports on Argentina. The first is that inflation is low, there is stability, interest rates are low, and foreign funds are coming into the country, albeit for speculative purposes. But the other has to note that there are tragic pockets of poverty and that unemployment remained at 10 percent of the population last year."
- "Most of the country is suffering crises that seem definitive for the sake of achieving macroeconomic success."
- "The administration's plan is good for only one segment of the population, while the majority of people are enduring a situation of neglect in which they cannot find any space."
- "Social strains that could explode in the medium term are being fomented."
- "The two problems facing the Cavallo plan, which are impossible to resolve under this model, have to do with the trade deficit and unemployment. And I see no possibility of solving them under this arrangement."

#### Rodriguez Giavarini: "The Accomplishments Are Unquestionable"

Adalberto Rodriguez Giavarini is an economic consultant and Fernando de la Rúa's main economic adviser. "The administration must remain on this course and under no circumstances close off the economy," he said in an interview with LA PRENSA.

- "The economic plan has made three major gains possible. Price stability is foremost. The other two are in fiscal policy and economic activity. The consumer price index over the past six months is equivalent to an annualized rate of 3.1 percent, which is similar to the rate in the United States over the past 12 months."
- "There has been major growth in economic activity, although we can criticize the exaggerated consumption slant that the expansion has shown."
- "As far as fiscal policy is concerned, the effort to balance the budget and eliminate distorting taxes is praiseworthy."
- "The growth in government spending of dubious effectiveness concerns me."
- "Some aspects of the technical design of the plan are debatable. I would have preferred more incentives for domestic savings rather than spending on public and private consumption."
- "I am not pleased about the administration's tendency to proceed on a case-by-case basis, with a large degree of discretionary authority and straying from the sound principles of universality and transparency."
- "The administration should step up its fiscal austerity to try to offset the upward pressure that higher international interest rates put on domestic interest rates, by bringing down the country-risk premium."
- "The strategy of fiscal austerity should be complemented by progress on pending matters, particularly the labor and provincial reforms and incentives for domestic savings."
- "Inflation must be seen as an extremely regressive tax. If the government merely signals that it would be willing to tolerate a little inflation in exchange for growth, I think that the economic agents would react by penalizing it heavily, and this would lead to capital flight and a contraction in credit and production. As you will see, then, I do not agree at all with Lazzara's statements."

#### Discord Over Buenos Aires Reform Discussed

94SM0293A Buenos Aires LA PRENSA in Spanish 11 Mar 94 p 5

[Article by Maria Ines Espeche and Ana Gerschenson: "The Capital Is Jeopardizing the Pact"]

[Text] "The direct election of the mayor and the reform of Buenos Aires City:

"a) The people of the city of Buenos Aires will directly elect their chief of government.

"(b) The city of Buenos Aires will be granted a special constitutional status that will recognize its autonomy and its own legislative and jurisdictional powers."

(From the Basic Points of Agreement of the pact signed in Olivos by President Carlos Menem and Raul Alfonsin)

The measures contained in the Olivos pact have already begun to unravel. The bone of contention is none other than the autonomy of the Federal Capital and its new legal status. Apparently, government officials are trying to "block" the legal and economic independence of the city and leave alone only the direct election of the mayor at the Constituent Assembly in Santa Fe. President Menem himself urged the squabbling factions in the Buenos Aires Justicialist Party (PJ) to end their fighting and put off decisions on the future plan.

The "provincialization" of the Federal Capital would inevitably bring with it the creation of new local institutions, the drafting of a metropolitan constitution, the formation of a local police force (the neighborhood precincts would come under the jurisdictions of the city), and a new local judiciary, plus the possible replacement of the Deliberating Council by a Buenos Aires legislature.

But what is especially upsetting to more than one sector of the national government, particularly the Economy Ministry, is that it will not be able to refuse to turn over the lion's share of its funds to a new "city state" with full autonomy.

No Buenos Aires politician doubts that this is "the debate that will come on the heels of the Constituent Assembly."

The leaders of the metropolitan PJ who are part of the president's inner circle would be willing to tolerate the emergence of a "chief of government" elected by popular vote. "What they cannot stomach," claim some former Grossists, "is that on top of that, the new mayor would have control of the huge budget of the new province."

Even Carlos Corach, the number-one candidate to represent the capital at the Constituent Assembly, told LA PRENSA that he does not agree with the formation of a metropolitan judiciary or a local police force. "That would result in more useless bureaucracy," he declared, expressly contradicting the paragraph of the Olivos pact that states: "...the city of Buenos Aires will be given a constitutional status that will recognize its autonomy and its own legislative and jurisdictional powers."

"Here it is evading an internal debate within the PJ," says Simon Lazara, spokesman for Raul Alfonsin, when asked about the possibility that the Radicals' agreement with Menem may fall apart. While it is an open secret that within the Buenos Aires PJ there is "an internal power struggle between Corach and Ruckauf to control the capital," when it comes to the issue of the city's

autonomy, the minister agrees with the legal and technical secretary that "it is not necessary" for the city to have its own police and court system.

"What they are forgetting," whispers a former Justicialist deputy, "is that they will not be ministers or government officials for the rest of their lives; they will not last 100 years."

On the other hand, Alfonsinist Jesus Rodriguez, a deputy who favors the pact, promised that at the Constituent Assembly "we will defend our neighbors, because I do not trust the Menemists when they talk about autonomy."

This issue, about which the Justicialists have clearly not reached a consensus (although they do not admit that in public), will be the subject of a meeting next week between the PJ deputies and Constituent Assembly candidates, both those in the capital and those in Buenos Aires Province. There they will try to forge a united position so that there will be no more contradictions, at least not in public.

#### "The Name Is Mine"

It should be noted that Governor Eduardo Duhalde recently brought up the "identity crisis" that Buenos Aires residents would suffer if the city were to keep its current name. It was then that he proposed the name "Santa Maria" for its third incarnation, after it has achieved full autonomy.

"All the patrol cars that used to say 'Buenos Aires Provincial Police' now say 'Buenos Aires Police,' to get people used to the idea of Buenos Aires in the district," the distressed governor explained to Buenos Aires PJ Deputy Jorge Arguello, author of the first autonomy plan for the capital.

Despite the "psychological crisis" the residents of the metropolitan area may suffer, on this side of General Paz no one, Justicialist or Radical, is willing to give up the label "Buenos Aires City," which will inevitably set the stage for confrontations here and there in the future.

Some suspicious types speculate that what really bothers Duhalde is "the emergence of a man who will be as strong as he is as governor of what until now has been the country's most important province."

The chief of government, a title agreed upon by the Radical Civic Union (UCR) and the PJ, will be politically and economically powerful enough to negotiate on an equal footing on issues such as the exodus of "the 6 million people who come into the capital each day to be treated at Buenos Aires hospitals."

To top it all off, Deputy Enrique Benedetti, a De la Rúa political operative, did not hesitate to give LA PRENSA this diagnosis: "This is another 'leak' in the pact. First there is Levene, who does not want to give up the [Supreme] Court; now we have the autonomy issue. The

next thing you know, they will say that Menem's reelection will not be for one term, but will be good for the rest of his biological existence."

[Box, p 5]

#### Everyone Wants To Be "Chief of Government"

Being elected top leader of the Federal Capital by popular vote is the pinnacle of politics for more than one Buenos Aires official, regardless of party affiliation. The matter has sparked more than one internal feud.

The list includes those who secretly yearn for the office, as well as those who have already announced it loud and clear.

Among metropolitan Justicialists, former Grossists and Menemists are fighting over the right to be the elected "figure"; everyone from recent PJ acquisition Adelina Dalesio de Viola to Comprehensive Medical Assistance Plan (PAMI) Director Matilde Menendez, and including Legal and Technical Secretary Carlos Corach, Public Function Secretary Claudia Bello, and Interior Minister Carlos Ruckauf, wants to take Bouer's place in 1995.

After the recent elections in the capital and the dimming of his presidential prospects, Radical insiders say that Senator Fernando de la Rúa has expressed a desire to wear the mayor's sash. But the man who opposed the pact will not have a smooth road ahead of him. Alfonsínist Deputy Jesus Rodriguez has already secretly begun pulling his political strings to enter the race for the same job.

The appearance on the scene of Socialist Councilman Norberto Laporta, who swept the metropolitan elections last 3 October, has dashed more than one private hope. "El Chichon" [the jolly one] has reportedly taken the idea so seriously that many say this was the real reason why he declined to enter into an alliance with the Great Front. "With the race for the city leadership so close at hand, he could not risk having his image tarnished," Socialists assert with conviction.

There is also optimism in the front. The person who emerges as the "best of the candidates" is former Prosecutor and Councilman Anibal Ibarra. The opinion polls indicate he is a man to be reckoned with, especially since he was so instrumental in exposing irregularities in the PAMI.

Another person rumored to be vying for a position on the list of possible candidates is retired Brigadier General Osvaldo Cacciatore, who made no secret during his unsuccessful campaign for deputy as a member of the metropolitan Democratic Center Union (UCeDe) that he would like once again to hold the office that was once his.

[Box, p 5]

#### Third Incarnation

A series of legal steps must be taken before the city can be declared "autonomous."

- It must be approved by the National Constituent Convention.
- After that the second stage will begin, the local constituent process, when limits will be set and terms will be defined.
- If Article 3, Paragraph 27 of Article 67, and Paragraph 3 of Article 86 of the National Constitution are amended at the convention, the way will be clear to advance toward autonomy.
- Until autonomy is declared and the new institutions of Buenos Aires City are installed, Congress will continue to be the local legislature.
- After the Constitution is amended, Congress will pass a law calling an election for delegates to a Buenos Aires Constituent Assembly.
- Each party will have to draw up a city model to present to the people, set in motion an electoral process, elect delegates to the Constituent Assembly, draft the constitution of the autonomous city, and once it is approved, set in motion the institutional process.
- The Deliberative Council will be replaced by a legislature of the new city.
- It will have a special constitutional status.
- It will continue to be the nation's capital until Congress passes a law transferring that status; it may or may not declare the capital to be federal.
- Although there is a general consensus on autonomy, the debate will begin with what city model each party will offer. Moreover, it will have a direct impact on the quality of life of the citizens. This is a foundational stage, the most important one since the city was federalized in 1880.

#### Supreme Court Justices Sworn In

PY3003195494 Buenos Aires **BUENOS AIRES**  
HERALD in English 30 Mar 94 p 11

[Excerpt] (NA-DYN) Gustavo Bossert and Guillermo Lopez were sworn in yesterday as new Supreme Court justices during a brief ceremony, thus restoring court strength to nine.

Bossert and Lopez were sworn in yesterday by interim chief justice Julio Nazareno during a seven-minute ceremony carried out at noon in Central Courthouse.

The ceremony was not attended by Justice Minister Jorge Maiorano, who allegedly has serious internal differences with a number of justices.

Despite the fact that it was officially reported that the minister did not attend the ceremony "due to previous engagements," court sources said that Justices Enrique

Petracchi and Augusto Delluscio had allegedly announced that they would not go if they saw Maiorano there.

Maiorano later confirmed that he had not turned up the Central Courthouse to see Bossert and Lopez become new justices because he had been warned about Belluscio and Petracchi's decision. The new justices replace Rodolfo Barra and Mariano Cavagna Martinez, who are both to the Constituent Assembly. [passage omitted]

### Bolivia

#### Report Accuses DEA of Torturing Suspect

PY3003151394 La Paz Radio Fides Network in Spanish  
1100 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] We have a report from our agency, the Fides News Agency, on Carmelo Meco Dominguez' testimony that we think our listeners should hear.

The U.S. Embassy and the DEA tried to involve former President Jaime Paz Zamora in drug trafficking in 1990 by violently torturing Carmelo Meco Dominguez, seeking to force him to incriminate the MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] leadership in trafficking activities.

This revelation was made public yesterday when MIR Deputy Mario Rueda Pena released a tape of a recorded voluntary declaration by Meco Dominguez at the La Paz Departmental Command of the Special Antinarcotics Force on 1 October 1990.

Meco says in his voluntary deposition that a few days before 1 October he was kidnapped from his home by U.S. agents who tortured him violently, seeking to get him to accuse the then-President Jaime Paz Zamora and other MIR leaders of involvement in drug trafficking.

Could this be just a show organized by the DEA with information obtained through torture? It is a very serious accusation. Legislators should ask Meco Dominguez during his testimony at the Chamber of Deputies this afternoon if the accusations against Jaime Paz Zamora were obtained through torture. The press must report everything. We do not want stories here, and least of all stories about gringos who torture people. Do you not agree? They can torture in their country if they want, but not in ours.

### Brazil

#### Next Finance Minister Stresses Curbing Inflation

PY3003232194 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Report by Renata Verissimo from Brasilia]

[Text] Future Finance Minister Rubens Ricupero will be sworn in on 5 April. He said today he will not touch the government economic plan.

Ricupero will spend the next four days in Brasilia, talking with the economic team to learn about issues at his new ministry. He admitted he is not well acquainted with all issues and that it would be premature to comment on any decision he might make. Ricupero confirmed that he intends to maintain the entire current economic team but he also is bringing along five advisers to help him in his new post. He also promised he will not modify the government economic plan. He said he totally favors the economic plan, and that he believes in the FHC [Fernando Henrique Cardoso] plan's success. Ricupero also chose the fight against inflation as his No. 1 goal:

[Begin Ricupero recording] I consider inflation the first problem that must be solved because without stability, there is no solution. Without stability, no commerce, or regional system, or industrial policy, or anything else will work. Therefore, that is the main subject of my convictions. As for the details and how inflation will be curbed, evidently it depends on the daily analysis of the economy's performance. [end recording]

Minister Ricupero added that President Itamar Franco is analyzing some names to replace him in the Environment Ministry. According to Ricupero, some of the possible candidates are former Ibama [Brazilian Institute for the Environment and Renewable Natural Resources] President Fernando Cesar Mesquita and Amazon Secretary Henrique Brandao Cavalcanti.

#### Minister Cardoso: Economic Plan 'Established'

PY3103000494 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Finance Minister Fernando Henrique Cardoso is leaving his post to run for president. His last act as finance minister was to present the bills for the new Brazilian currency, the real, which will take effect in the economic plan's third stage.

Minister Cardoso today presented to the public the one-, five-, 10-, 50-, and 100-real bills as well as the one-, five-, 10-, and 50-real cent coins. The Central Bank is coordinating the printing of 1 billion bills, some of which are being printed abroad.

During the presentation Minister Cardoso said the new currency needs credibility, and for this purpose the government must be austere. It would have been easier, he said, to have begun the economic plan with the creation of the real, but the government chose the most difficult path, which was to create the appropriate conditions by streamlining public accounts. Minister Cardoso said he left the economic plan ready and that he is sure it will work:

[Begin Cardoso recording] I am totally sure that the plan is perfectly established and coordinated and that it will work. It will not be affected in the least. Brazil has now found its path, which it must follow. That is also the conviction of the president. Therefore, I am leaving this ministry with absolute calm. [end recording]

Minister Cardoso reported that the people must not worry because the government will announce the measure at least 35 days before the new currency goes into circulation.

During a news conference, Minister Cardoso assessed what has done so far with the stabilization plan. He expressed thanks for the economic team's dedication, Congress' cooperation, and President Itamar Franco's support. He said the president always encouraged the plan and has been the main pillar of the economic policy.

Minister Cardoso said it has not been decided yet who will be his vice presidential running mate. He said his party, the PSDB [Brazilian Social Democracy Party], is open to conversations with all parties but nothing has been agreed on alliances so far.

#### **Franco Rewrites Provisional Measure on URV**

*PY3003161594 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Report by Luiz Augusto Mendonca]

[Text] President Itamar Franco has rewritten the text of the provisional measure that creates the Real Value Unit, URV. The new text will be published in the official gazette today.

The new text of Provisional Measure 434 establishes that the date for conversion of salaries into URV's is the 30th of each month. The difference resulting from the judicial and legislative branches decision to convert their employees' salaries into URV's on 20 March will be paid to them as a bonus, which will have to be authorized through a legislative decree.

These decisions were made during a cabinet meeting at Planalto Palace last night. The joint proposal for rewriting Provisional Measure 434 was approved during the meeting. The text now establishes that all public employees' salaries be converted into URV's on the 30th of each month based on the salaries paid for the last four months. This rule does not apply to state-owned companies and other self-supported government organizations.

The 10.94 percent difference resulting from conversion into URV's of judicial and legislative branch employees' salaries on 20 March will probably be paid to these employees as a bonus, which will be authorized through a legislative decree.

President Itamar Franco began the meeting yesterday by saying that as head of the administration and chief of state he must protect the national interests and influence administrative measures of the other government

branches. President Itamar Franco later said that, as should always occur in a state of law, he will comply with the Federal Supreme Court decision and continue to adopt and propose measures against unfair and unequal treatment of public issues. He added that he will coordinate proposals for amendments to the Constitution through the government leaders at the Chamber of Deputies and at the Senate. He established that these proposals be analyzed with the help of illustrious jurists. He said that these will be effective measures seeking to ensure an overall and legal reorganization of the Brazilian Government.

#### **Alexander Dupeyrat Named New Justice Minister**

*PY3003235494 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] Presidential special adviser Alexander Dupeyrat is the new justice minister. He is replacing Mauricio Correa, who will run in the next elections. This was confirmed today by President Itamar Franco in Planalto Palace. He also said he has yet not chosen who will replace Labor Minister Walter Baretli, who is stepping down from his post to run for an electoral post.

#### **New 'Cry of the Earth' Movement To Fight Hunger**

*PY3003162894 Brasilia Radio Nacional da Amazonia Network in Portuguese 1000 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Report by Poleni Castello Branco]

[Text] Rural workers, fishermen, and Indian tribes countrywide will promote a movement against hunger, misery, and for jobs. They will take their proposals to the government in April.

The movement will be entitled "Cry of the Earth." The movement is being organized by the National Rural Workers Confederation [Confederaçao Nacional dos Trabalhadores na Agricultura], the CUT [Sole Workers Center], and the Landless Farmers Movement, as well as other entities that plan to join the action in favor of citizens and struggle for jobs movement.

This new movement has five main objectives: agrarian reform, labor rights, social security and health, and policies for the environment and energy fields. Those who are promoting this movement plan to begin negotiating these objectives with the government next month.

Landless farmers representative Gilberto Fortes has asserted that more than 16,000 families must be settled in the rural area. He said this problem could be solved by expropriating land where marijuana plantations are found, as the Constitution establishes. Representatives of this movement also want to fight to ensure the expansion of the program to feed workers and the rural workers' right to severance payments.

**End of Monopoly on Oil, Gas Proposed***PY3103010794 Brasilia Voz do Brasil Network in Portuguese 2200 GMT 30 Mar 94*

[Text] Exploration and exploitation of oil, natural gas, and telecommunications services will be able to be done by private enterprises. Such changes are planned in the seven congressional committee proposals announced today by constitutional revision rapporteur Deputy Nelson Jobim.

According to these proposals, the right to exploit oil, natural gas, and telecommunications ceases to be the privilege of public companies.

[Begin Jobim recording] Look, we want to ensure a state monopoly, that is, the possibility that the government can exploit things either directly or through concessions. We are not forcing public companies to give concessions (even if the pertaining company is monopolistic. That is a government decision. [end recording]

Flexibility in monopolies also will be adopted for the distribution of piped gas. The rules for concessions will be defined by a complementary law.

Jobim also suggested a limitation on government intervention in the economy by eliminating the requirement of government authorization to exercise any economic activity. His proposal also ends differences between national and foreign companies. In the field of public finances and budget, Jobim suggests changes to balance the fiscal accounts, and he is open to suggestions from the Budget CPI [Congressional Investigative Committee].

The main changes he suggested are to withdraw the concept of a congressional committee from the Constitution, and to end social subsidies and voluntary transfers of funds to states and municipalities, which should be authorized only through a specific law.

**U.S. Commander Visits, Meets Military Leaders***PY3003215894 Brasilia Correio Brasiliense in Portuguese 17 Mar 94 p 16*

[Text] The new strategy for defending the South American continent is the main topic that the U.S. Southern Command chief, General Barry B. McCaffrey, is analyzing with Brazilian military commanders. Drug trafficking control through an efficient fight in the Amazon region is part of the U.S. military strategy in Latin America. McCaffrey met on 16 March with Army Minister Zenildo de Lucena and the Army land operations commander, to whom he explained the objectives of the radar facilities and bases built on the borders of Amazon countries.

In the opinion of the U.S. military chief, the United States, as a top military power in the Americas, is also a member of the continent's defense pact along with the

countries of the hemisphere, an Army Planning Department official said on 16 March. McCaffrey today will meet the Armed Forces chief of staff. On 18 March, he will visit the Naval Operations Command in Rio de Janeiro.

A Vietnam war veteran, McCaffrey has taken advanced military strategy courses. He graduated from West Point Military Academy. In his capacity as Southern Command chief, McCaffrey is responsible for all U.S. military activities in Latin America, with the exception of Mexico and the Caribbean. Implementation of the national security policy in the hemisphere is part of the planning activities under his command, as a U.S. combat unit.

Meanwhile, in Buenos Aires, specialists and soldiers from OAS countries today continued debating enforcement of a new regional post-Cold War security model.

**Integration**

The deliberations, which began on 14 March, today focused on the integration processes of Colombia and its neighbors, Argentina and Chile; Mercosur [Common Market of the South]; and the United States and Europe. The meeting was arranged in November in Washington by the OAS Special Hemispheric Security Commission, which is headed by Argentine Hernan Patino Mayer. At the 23d OAS General Assembly, which was held in Managua, a special resolution was approved to summon specialists and soldiers of the Americas to analyze the situation in the region within "the new international post-Cold War framework."

The Meeting of Specialists on Measures for Strengthening Regional Mutual Confidence and Security Mechanisms is being attended by deputy ministers, deputy foreign ministers, and military officers from OAS countries. Brazilian Joao Baena Soares, the OAS secretary general, is expected to arrive in Buenos Aires this evening to join the meeting, which ends on 18 March.

**Meets Armed Forces Chief of Staff***PY3003212894 Sao Paulo GAZETA MERCANTIL in Portuguese 21 Mar 94*

[From the "Names and Notes" section]

[Text] The chief of the U.S. Southern Command, General Barry McCaffrey, discussed the new defense strategy for South America with Brazilian military officers. After a meeting with the Armed Forces chief of staff, Admiral Arnaldo Leite Pereira, Gen. McCaffrey said the main objective of his visit to Brazil is "to listen and study" the Brazilian military leadership's point of view. According to McCaffrey, the Brazilian military chiefs' opinions will help define future relations between the U.S. and Brazilian Armies.

## Chile

### Eight Detained in Santiago Demonstrations

PY3003154594 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] While celebrating the anniversary of the killing of the brothers Rafael and Eduardo Vergara Toledo in Villa Francia District in 1985, groups of youngsters were involved yesterday in serious incidents at the intersection of Grecia and Jose Pedro Alessandri Avenues and in Villa Francia District. At least eight demonstrators were detained by Carabineros who went to restore public order.

After participating in a tribute to the killed MIR [Movement of the Revolutionary Left] members yesterday afternoon, a group of masked people set up barricades on Grecia Avenue and threw Molotov cocktails and stones. Carabineros cordoned off the area and caused huge traffic jams. Vehicles were diverted to nearby streets while Carabineros used water cannons and tear gas.

The new Israeli-made water cannons, exhibited at the FIDAE [International Aerospace Fair] and purchased by Carabineros to serve at the 29th Special Forces Precinct, were used for the first time.

Carabineros yesterday evening prevented another tribute to the killed MIR members in Villa Francia District, dispersing those who were planning to participate in it.

Manuel Vergara, the father of the killed MIR members, explained that it was a peaceful tribute and that Carabineros ordered the dismantling of the stage. He said:

[Begin Vergara recording] It was supposed to have been a very beautiful tribute. We could have had a video with a script, with artists. It was scheduled for 2000. The problem is that Carabineros arrived at 1830, surrounded the area, and even prevented the stage from being assembled.

Mounted Carabineros pushed the people. They charged at the people and the stage had to be dismantled. [end recording]

While the mother of the Vergara brothers was expressing her protest to journalists, a water cannon soaked the journalists who were recording her comments. The Vergara family's house was completely flooded during this action. The water cannon soaked a Megavision team and a Chilevision cameraman was hit on the leg by a tear gas canister.

### Interior Minister Correa Interviewed

PY3003203094 Santiago ESTRATEGIA in Spanish 21 Mar 94 pp 30, 31, 34

[Interview with Interior Minister German Correa by unidentified reporter in Santiago; date not given]

[Text] [ESTRATEGIA] As a militant Socialist Party [PS] member, what significance do you give your appointment as interior minister from the personal and political point of view?

[Correa] It is a great responsibility, a great challenge. I hope to do a good job because this position exerts major influence on the progress of the government. As a PS militant, I can say that President Eduardo Frei's gesture to appoint me to this post when I was PS president is a very clear sign of his strong inclination for consensus and the consolidation of this coalition [Coalition of Parties for Democracy, CPPD] that has been so beneficial to the country. Therefore, my appointment to this position also has a very important political and symbolic value.

[ESTRATEGIA] Does your appointment signify official recognition of the socialist world?

[Correa] I believe so. This brings an end to a very traumatic phase not only of disagreements and conflicts that culminated violently in the 1973 military coup but to all that happened during the 17 years of the military regime. It shows our determination for not only analyzing, even to a heartbreaking point, our past but also our contributions to this process. It is also evidence of our ability to govern responsibly and seriously by giving guarantees to all Chileans without any distinctions. My appointment has finally vindicated our capability to have a serious government in this country.

[ESTRATEGIA] Would it have been the same if a Christian Democratic Party [PDC] member was appointed interior minister, for example?

[Correa] From the point of view of the interior minister's functions, it is inconsequential who is exercising these duties because we must abide by what is established in the Constitution, which is the institutional order that establishes the duties of this post within the framework of the government and society. This is inconsequential from this point of view. I will be exercising this post to the best of my abilities and strictly adhering to the Constitution and the established institutional order.

[ESTRATEGIA] From the CPPD point of view, what is the significance of the appointment of a Socialist to this cabinet post?

[Correa] The CPPD has worked well. It has clearly shown its coherence in how it governed the country during the Aylwin administration. This coherence also will be clearly evident during the Frei administration because there is major consensus regarding what we want to achieve in the country.

[ESTRATEGIA] During the previous administration's first stage, when you were a cabinet member, Senator Ricardo Nunez (PS) charged that the government was isolating itself. Did you agree with this assessment?

[Correa] At the time not only I but also several administration members agreed with this PS criticism. There is an inclination to isolate yourself, to enclose yourself in

government offices and internal government mechanisms that are very demanding. This is why we made some self-criticism at the time. We held several meetings in the Prieto room in this regard. As a result, we were able to overcome this isolation and achieve more fluent ties with people outside the government and have greater contact with people.

[ESTRATEGIA] How will you keep this from happening, because President Frei has stressed the idea of governing in the field?

[Correa] We are aware of this constant danger, but in this case we have anticipated events. Moreover, we have a president whose style is to work in the field, and very soon he will be putting this into practice. But of course one has to follow the boss because he is the leader.

#### Realistic Agenda

[ESTRATEGIA] As chief of the political cabinet, given that the Socialists wanted to stress the political-institutional calendar, up to what point do you agree with the preestablished agenda?

[Correa] President Frei has been very clear about this. That apparent controversy among some CPPD member parties was solved when we all agreed to prioritize economic and social subjects. In this field we have the Aylwin administration's experience that clearly shows that the right firmly opposes certain kinds of reforms. What we must do is feel the water before jumping into the pool of reforms; we must first work and seek a point in common with the opposition, establish a dialogue, and discuss things.

Some other reforms, like to again allow the president of the Republic to appoint Armed Forces commanders, are very controversial. There is no agreement about this, and we will have to work more slowly and with more patience on it, seeking a consensus. The issue here is rhythm and strategy in order to make progress toward objectives that are not shared by all.

[ESTRATEGIA] Minister, don't you think that by postponing such subjects we are running the risk that something similar to what happened with the Senate president election might happen again?

[Correa] No. The decision is not to postpone the issue but to begin working on it now, in a manner so as to obtain results. Because what could we do now? Send the same draft bills that were rejected by the right and put them on Congress' agenda, perhaps with some changes, and then go to the fight? We will not gain anything from such a position. The most important thing is to establish a dialogue with the opposition, see what country we want from the political and institutional point of view, without seeking advantages, within normal democratic dynamics between government and opposition.

[ESTRATEGIA] From your point of view, what reform do you consider the most urgent one?

[Correa] There is a package of four very important reforms connected to the National Security Council's composition, the Constitutional Court, and the president's ability to appoint the forces of order and Armed Forces commanders.

#### Public Security

[ESTRATEGIA] What is the meaning of the interministerial committees that will be created, as announced by the government, and specifically what will be the differences from the former administration's work?

[Correa] The former government had experience with interministerial committees. They are institutions that allow mutual dialogue and knowledge among the ministries, and they also allow the coordination of projects and the collective adoption of decisions so as to establish priorities in public investments in different fields; besides, they allow better administration.

We will continue with that positive experience and make some changes to it to guarantee greater efficiency and continue making progress. An important concrete change is the division of the social-economic committee into a social committee and an economic committee. The interministerial social committee will concentrate mainly on poverty problems. It also has a very important characteristic because it is directly presided over by the president of the Republic. This shows the importance the government assigns to a frontal confrontation of the country's poverty problem.

[ESTRATEGIA] In addition to poverty, citizens also are greatly concerned about an issue handled directly by your ministry: public security. What measures will be adopted to improve public security?

[Correa] We will start by studying the important measures we inherited from the previous administration on an important work they achieved: the proposed social safety plan...

[ESTRATEGIA] Excuse me, sir, but when did the past administration achieve this?

[Correa] Quite a lot of progress was achieved but there is obviously much more to be done. Much progress has been achieved by increasing police personnel and equipment but a lot remains to be done in this field. We must continue the training programs for police cadres, and achieve greater community involvement in public security activities not merely by establishing private guard groups but by adopting a different attitude toward citizens' participation in social safety.

There are many undetected social attitudes that promote crime such as the lack of preventive measures, and inconsiderate common behavior encouraging criminal activities that increase the job of the police, thus making it very difficult for them to perform well. There is a major task regarding the activities to be carried out by

police and by society in general if we are to achieve a safer and more peaceful society.

[ESTRATEGIA] As for the terrorist issue, what is the government's assessment in this regard?

[Correa] The government's assessment is positive. A lot of progress was made in this regard during the previous administration. There was coordinated work among police institutions and the government itself. This resulted in the dismantling of violent groups, which today are in precarious shape. Nevertheless, no one can declare victory because all these groups need to be active is a small armed group of daring individuals and the element of surprise to cause a tragic incident.

At any rate, these groups have experienced a major diminishment of their capability to undertake action. Nevertheless, we must always be alert and continue consolidating democracy. Ultimately, what matters is to prevent these groups from spreading in our society. This will be achieved through growth and development, the creation of jobs for the young, giving more opportunities to people, and the defeat of poverty.

[ESTRATEGIA] Some sectors believe that the granting of pardons is synonymous with impunity. Can the granting of pardons harm the fight against terrorism?

[Correa] I don't think so. We must not overlook the fact that the CPPD as a whole—not only the Aylwin administration and now the Frei administration—at the proper time clearly established the differences between a political prisoner and terrorist violence. The ruling party coalition unanimously agreed by consensus that as 11 September 1990—when, as is the case of President Aylwin's election, a Chilean Government elected by the will of the people in a democratic election was installed—democracy was fully restored in Chile with all its shortcomings. Therefore, these actions cannot continue to be portrayed as political crimes as such but as outright terrorist actions. In view of this, President Aylwin implemented these pardons.

It must be noted that during the authoritarian regime these people were treated with an absolute lack of respect for their basic rights. Many of these prisoners were incarcerated for prolonged periods without due process, virtually condemning them before the issuance of a valid court sentence. There are dramatic cases in which, after spending years in prison, those involved were acquitted because there was insufficient evidence to punish them for their behavior, that is, no crime was ever committed. In many instances, the accused served a kind of anticipated sentence.

Now many people will issue their opinion on this matter. As President Aylwin has always maintained, this is a matter of conscience in the end. In one way or the other, a very tragic chapter in the history of Chile is closing with this issue. Nevertheless, part of this chapter is still not closed because the trials on serious human rights violations during the military regime, which have been

confirmed by all Chileans, still are pending. I believe that instead of harboring resentments from such a harsh and traumatic period for our country, all this should be part of a past we must try to overcome so we can restore the proper guidelines of peaceful coexistence and mutual respect.

[ESTRATEGIA] Minister, do you think the prisoners President Aylwin pardoned recently were political prisoners?

[Correa] That is the way the coalition as a group defined them. Their actions were politically motivated. They were wrong in my opinion, as I made clear in my capacity as a political leader. At the time of their crime I was president of the Popular Democratic Movement, which was defined by the military regime as the group making the harshest opposition to their continuation in government. In that capacity, I was also a strong critic of the attack against General Augusto Pinochet.

I was a member of Clodomiro Almeyda's Socialist Party and that was not our line of action. We promoted mass mobilizations and incorporating millions of Chileans in the democratic struggle. This struggle finally and happily materialized in the plebiscite. We participated in the plebiscite actively. We did not support any direct action like the attempt to assassinate Gen. Pinochet.

[ESTRATEGIA] Do you think the president's decision to pardon political prisoners was correct?

[Correa] I share his decision. We must remember that his pardon only changes their imprisonment to exile. We all know what it means not to be able to live in the fatherland. It means not to share in the cultural and human essence of Chilean society. The many thousands of exiles during the military regime know very well what it means to live outside of the country without the possibility of returning for many years.

[ESTRATEGIA] Do you agree with the pardon as a presidential prerogative?

[Correa] Yes. The pardon must exist as a prerogative. There are always special cases. The prerogative must be used in exceptional cases. It must be so as a matter of principle. I have no doubt that presidents will use that prerogative after carefully analyzing values, principles, and all the elements that influenced the behavior of the person considered for a pardon.

[ESTRATEGIA] Among President Aylwin's latest decisions, there was a pardon granted to an opposition party follower charged with involvement in economic crimes. What is your opinion about this pardon?

[Correa] Former President Aylwin must have considered the entire group of elements defining the situation. I am not aware of the details of the case, but President Aylwin must have considered them carefully. He probably found among those elements enough cause to grant the pardon in conscience.

[ESTRATEGIA] Will that practice continue during this government?

[Correa] The pardon is a juridical institution, a prerogative of the president of the Republic. Each case must have exceptional characteristics for a president to make use of that prerogative. I trust it will always be so.

[ESTRATEGIA] One of the issues that worries the country is corruption. Various cases of irregularities involving public servants were reported during the past government. What will this administration do to prevent those problems from reoccurring?

[Correa] We must be precise in the use of terms and how we characterize situations. I do not think there was corruption in President Aylwin's government. There were irregularities, which is something different from corruption as such. Some of the cases involving alleged corruption are being investigated.

No one can close his eyes to the possibility of corruption, no doubt about it. There are risks. There are relations between businessmen and politicians that invite corruption. There are situations inside a public office that facilitate corruption. But we should not forget that for corruption to exist two individuals must participate. In general terms, the blame affects more the person who has been corrupted, the person who accepted the bribe. Those who gave the bribe, and who often initiate the corrupt act, usually are not taken into account.

This is a more complex issue. Eduardo Frei's government will do everything necessary in the areas of supervision, prevention, auditing, and controls. We are working on the design of specific measures. We have been in power for a very short time.

[ESTRATEGIA] Will you also promote legislation on the matter?

[Correa] We will do that as well. We will reinforce the comptroller and other organizations' existing supervisory capacity.

Regarding Codelco's [Copper Corporation] case, we think Cochilco [expansion unknown], which was responsible for auditing Codelco, performed rather weak work. We do not think they did their job very well. We must see that existing mechanisms work properly in public administration. The government will have to create responsibilities or control mechanisms wherever supervision is weak. But above all we must transmit a message to society, because there are multiple forms of corruption and citizens indulge in them every day. The fight against corruption is not the sole responsibility of the government though. We will fight it as best as we can, but citizens also must look at their own behavior and ethical norms.

[ESTRATEGIA] The political class has a more elegant corrupt practice. It is called influence peddling. People from your own party have denounced it. What do you think of it?

[Correa] In effect, we have influence peddling. When you are in very important positions you perceive it, but you can fight it. When I was transportation minister, I had the opportunity to handle multi-million dollar projects. We made important decisions, such as the one involving subway Line Five, which is a \$300 million project. We had to organize bids involving the purchase of equipment for \$100 million to \$150 million. I oversaw the bidding on Santiago's street lights, which was worth \$16 million, and many other large projects involving millions in investments.

You can create technical commissions, involve people from many areas to prevent government people alone from making the decision. You can create bid evaluation teams to analyze economic proposals and all stages of the process to grant a contract to a company. There are ways to ensure clarity, to be reassured, and reassure the population. All mechanisms created to prevent conspiracies to commit corruption must be implemented.

When you do things that way you can guarantee that the risk of corruption will be reduced to a minimum. It might even be eliminated.

[ESTRATEGIA] But are you aware that not everyone acted in that manner during the previous administration?

[Correa] I am perfectly aware of it, and it is very regrettable. We must reinforce the perception of what a public official should be and the immense responsibility that the management of public funds signifies. Public officials are there to safeguard these funds and to make them yield the best profits for the country's well-being.

At the proper time I pointed out that I thought it was immoral to allow the National Railroad Company to continue losing 21 billion pesos per year, that is, to lose from \$60 million to \$80 million, just to keep it under state management. I must remind you that I am responsible for promoting a bill that resulted in the privatization of railroad freight services, a very lucrative railroad department. Based on very strict upholding of the meaning of the use of public funds—which belong to all Chileans—and of strict adherence to good management policies for public resources, we can achieve progress in the fight against corruption. Moreover, we must always be very alert, implement measures, and change responsibilities within the public administration when there is suspicion that strange things may be occurring.

[ESTRATEGIA] The Frei administration has inherited the Codelco problem. There is a very serious charge before the Chamber of Deputies on an alleged marketing network reportedly involving past and current administration officials. How is the government going to handle such a complex case?

[Correa] We have undoubtedly inherited a very complex case, but President Frei has been very explicit in stating that everything must be investigated to the very last detail so that all responsibilities are clarified, that once

these responsibilities are established the proper legal proceedings will be undertaken to the bitter end if criminal actions are proven, of course.

The basic procedure is to investigate everything, not allowing anything to be hidden and, of course, not covering up anything. It is much more detrimental for a government to strive to diminish the damage that these kind of situations might cause, to try to minimize or cover up the impact, than to disclose the full truth. It is much healthier for an administration to do this because public credibility is essential for the strengthening of democracy.

[ESTRATEGIA] Finally, do you agree with the assessment made by Aylwin at the end of his term that there will be an increase in social demands and an unfavorable international economic scenario?

[Correa] We are aware that we will be facing situations that might not be as favorable as those of the previous administration. But I do not believe the situation will be as dramatic as to say that this administration will be facing serious difficulties. It is possible that we might face more social demands, but it is also true that much has been done and that much more will be done by this administration in this regard, starting with the emphasis President Frei is putting into the fight against corruption. This is a difficult issue because it entails huge resources. It entails a nationwide effort but we believe the proper conditions are there to achieve this goal. Even the opposition has expressed its willingness to cooperate on this issue.

If we are able to achieve this goal, if we are able to maintain an important growth level, which perhaps may not be as high as expected because of prevailing international conditions, by generating new job sources, these situations can be confronted. Moreover, we also will be able to overcome complicated situations by granting workers, and people in general, greater freedom to exercise their rights, and we must perfect the legislation that limits these rights to do this.

#### Foreign Ministry Official Views Exports, NAFTA

PY3003180794 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 1100 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] The Foreign Ministry [International] Economic [Relations] Directorate is seeking to increase exports of services, enhance the NAFTA negotiations, and explore new markets in Asia and other parts of the world.

This was reported by attorney Juan Salazar, the International Economic Relations director, who gave a broad description of the Foreign Ministry International Economic Relations Directorate's guidelines.

Salazar reported a substantial increase in the sale of Chilean services abroad, specially transportation and software sales, among other lines.

As an example, he mentioned that last year our country exported services worth \$3.2 billion, which represents 40 percent of our country's exports.

Salazar believes this Chilean impetus toward the world requires that entrepreneurs and the private sector conform to the new international requirements. He said it is necessary for executives to be more aggressive and penetrate new markets in other parts of the world like Asia, specially China and Malaysia. He said:

[Begin Salazar recording] We have tried to tell them about this new emphasis. For example, we have strongly mentioned Asia. There are new programs that [former International Economic Relations director] Jaime [Lavados Germain] already mentioned like market (?intelligence) and our country's image. There are negotiations that we will have to conduct.

We also talked about NAFTA. We talked about countries outside our region, outside Latin America. We talked about services, which is a very important area. Instead of using a meaningless phrase, let's say that this is our second phase. [end recording]

To implement these programs, for example, PROCHILE [Institute for Export Promotion] currently has 35 offices which it plans to increase to 200 across our country. Juan Salazar said a new entrepreneurial attitude is required. He said:

[Begin Salazar recording] There is a discrete deterioration of the Chilean export process. Some people want to blame this problem on the exchange rate, for example. As international trade increases, I believe Chile will be facing increasing competition. We have to refine both the state instruments and the private sector actions in order to face this competition. [end recording]

He said it would even be desirable if PROCHILE were privatized.

#### Ruling Party Delegation To Visit Cuba in May

PY3103010894 Santiago Radio Cooperativa Network in Spanish 2300 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] A Christian Democratic Party [DC] delegation will visit Cuba in May. The delegation, which will be headed by DC President Gutenberg Martinez, also will include Chilean Human Rights Commission President Jaime Castillo Velasco and CUT [United Labor Confederation] President Manuel Bustos.

The visit's objective is to become familiar with the situation prevailing in the island, in all sectors.

Martinez justified the presence of Castillo Velasco and Bustos in the delegation:

[Begin Martinez recording] We deemed it appropriate for this type of delegation to include a former DC president like Jaime Castillo, whose opinion has been heard on topics dealing with doctrine and democracy

and who also has international experience. In the case of Manuel Bustos, he is our party's top labor leader. We believe the DC lives not only in the political but also in the labor arena. [end recording]

Martinez ruled out that the visit will be sort of an advance step by the government coalition with a view toward the possible reestablishment of diplomatic relations. He admitted however, that the issue, which—as he put it—has many sides, is being analyzed by the government and the DC.

On the other hand, Gutenberg Martinez said Cuba has placed no restrictions on the delegation's visit. Cuban General Consul in Chile Humberto Hernandez made a similar statement:

[Begin Hernandez recording] They will make good contacts with (social sectors), Cuban authorities, and party and government officials. They will see the actual situation in Cuba and they will form their own opinion. [end recording]

Asked whether the delegation will be able to visit everything, even jails, the consul said specific conversations should be made about the subject in Cuba.

Asked about the presence of Fidel Castro and the holding of democratic elections, Hernandez replied that there is democracy in Cuba, although with imperfections.

### Colombia

#### Ecopetrol To Sell Petroleum Derivatives

94SM0276B Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Feb 94 p 4C

[Article by Jaime Mejia Mazuera]

[Text] Not all is lost in the current oil price crisis. The Colombian Petroleum Enterprise (Ecopetrol) has found a way to profit from the situation by exploring deals that go beyond merely selling crude oil abroad.

Last Monday, the Office of the Vice President for Sales of the oil company managed to close a deal in Trinidad-Tobago that yielded a profit of \$1 million: In exchange for 500,000 barrels of oil, it will receive 200,000 barrels of processed products (gasoline, kerosene, and others).

In this way, the oil company is marketing finished products rather than crude oil, following a very obvious economic strategy: As long as crude prices are on the decline, gasolines and other derivatives can fetch better and better prices.

The current winter season in the United States and Europe has contributed to the increase in demand for fuels, and therefore prices are very attractive for producers.

And there are better prospects ahead. In countries with seasons, the so-called "driving season" is approaching.

This is a time when Americans travel on the highways, and fuel consumption increases notably.

As a result, Ecopetrol has decided to look for mechanisms that will enable it to take advantage of what the fuels market offers.

After the Trinidad-Tobago transaction, the oil company expects to negotiate similar deals in the gulf of the United States (the country's west coast), where the principal refineries in the world are located. They have a refining capacity of 15 million barrels per day.

#### Change in Strategy

How will the deal work? The oil company contracts with a foreign refinery to process crude, and in exchange, it receives a given quantity of products such as gasolines for cars, airplanes, and boats.

In this way, the company gets a profit margin it would not get if it sold the oil directly on the major commodities markets of the world.

Why? While a barrel of high-quality oil currently sells for less than \$14, gasoline can sell for \$18 or \$19.

The conclusion for Ecopetrol is simple: Whatever it pays to have the fuel refined can be recouped, and ultimately it is better off selling the fuel in processed form.

Of course, 100 barrels of petroleum does not yield 100 barrels of gasoline. Everything depends on the refineries' conversion capacity. The best plants can achieve an 85-percent conversion, that is, 85 barrels of gasoline for every 100 barrels of crude.

According to Ecopetrol officials consulted by EL TIEMPO, however, this type of transaction can be profitable for the company and can boost revenues at a time when the crude market is depressed, but looks like it will improve in the next few months.

The next step is the futures market. Very soon, all oil transactions will be protected against any sharp change in prices. Thus, crude will be sold for delivery in two to six months at a predetermined price. If the price falls, the company is compensated by the financial institution that insured the sale.

#### International Prices, U.S.\$ per Barrel

| Date   | Gasoline Price (l) | Petroleum Price |
|--------|--------------------|-----------------|
| Feb 93 | 20.5               | 20.3            |
| Mar 93 | 21.0               | 21.0            |
| Apr 93 | 24.5               | 20.0            |
| May 93 | 25.0               | 20.0            |
| Jun 93 | 23.0               | 19.1            |
| Jul 93 | 21.0               | 19.3            |
| Aug 93 | 21.0               | 17.6            |
| Sep 93 | 20.0               | 18.2            |

|        |      |      |
|--------|------|------|
| Oct 93 | 19.0 | 17.5 |
| Nov 93 | 17.0 | 17.2 |
| Dec 93 | 15.0 | 15.0 |
| Jan 94 | 17.0 | 14.0 |
| Feb 94 | 18.4 | 13.9 |

(1) Price indicator in Gulf of U.S.

### Roundup of Colombian Economic Developments PA3003132794

[Editorial Report] The following is a compilation of reports on Colombian economic developments monitored through 29 March.

The National Administrative Department of Statistics, DANE, has disclosed that in 1993 commercial trade increased 4.25 percent, due primarily to an increase in the sale of furniture and electrical appliances which, in turn, was prompted by increased construction. DANE figures show that sales in December increased by 8.79 percent compared to the same period on 1992. Vehicles and replacement parts sold the most at 15.62 percent, and fuel and lubricants sold the least at minus 7.26 percent. Although sales were up, jobs decreased by 1.48 percent in comparison to 1992. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Mar 94 p 4B)

The prices of staple products continue to increase in a worrisome manner. During the first 10 days of March the cost of living increased by 1.94 percent, which usually happens every month, but the government fears that if the trend continues throughout the month the quarterly cost of living rate could increase to up to 10 percent. Some analysts believe the excess of money in circulation is also a factor. In 1993 food, which represents 34 percent of the cost of living, increased by only 14.5 percent. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 18 Mar 94 p 1, 1B)

Foreign investment in Colombia increased by 8.6 percent in January compared to the same month in 1993. Total investment, excluding petroleum, was \$21.7 million in January 1994 compared to \$19.9 million in January 1993. The Investing in Colombia Corporation reported that 89.7 percent of this investment went to the mining sector. The manufacturing sector received 6.2 percent. The United Kingdom was the top investor with \$17.4 million, that is, 84.4 percent of total foreign investment in Colombia in January 1994. All of it went to the mining sector. The United States was second with 13.1 percent and it also invested in the mining sector. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Mar 94 p 3B)

Colombian purchases abroad increased by 47.2 percent between January and November 1993 compared to the same period in 1992. Exports grew by only 2.7 percent in the same period. According to DANE, imports totaled \$8.948 billion, and exports totaled \$6.504 billion. Economists think that this is due to the revaluation of the

peso. The import of consumer and capital goods and construction materials experienced the highest growth rate, more than 70 percent. The import of vehicles grew by 148 percent and the import of weapons by 215 percent. Exports increased from \$6.332 billion to \$6.504. Traditional exports, such as coffee, petroleum, coal, and ferrous nickel [ferroniquel], dropped by 6.46 percent. Meanwhile, nontraditional exports grew by 11.37 percent. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 19 Mar 94 p 3B)

The Board of the Cartagena Accord has reported that the exchange of goods and services among the members of the Andean Group, comprised by Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela, reached \$2.886 billion in 1993, that is, a 117-percent increase compared to 1990. Excluding fuel, exports among Andean countries in 1993 reached \$2.642 billion, a 34.1 percent increase compared to 1992. In 1993 Colombia exported \$1,159,800,000 or 40.2 percent of total intra-subregional trade. Venezuela was the main destination for Colombian exports. Sales to that country totaled \$711.6 million. Venezuela was the second Andean Group exporter with \$987.5 million or 34.2 percent of total intra-subregional trade. Most Venezuelan exports went to Colombia. Ecuador registered the largest increase in intra-subregional exports with 76 percent. Bolivia increased exports by 8 percent and Peru by 10.4 percent in 1993. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 23 Mar 94 pp 1B, 3B)

Foreign Trade Minister Juan Manuel Santos and Agriculture Minister Jose Antonio Ocampo sent a letter dated 23 March to the newspaper EL TIEMPO stating that the government is not planning to reduce tariffs on and protective measures for the agricultural sector, or alter the price of agricultural produce in order to stop the rise of inflation. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 8A)

The members of the Association of Coffee Producers on 24 March decided to reduce from 20 percent to 10 percent their withholding of exportable coffee, a measure they have implemented since October 1993. They had agreed that as soon as the price of coffee reached 75 cents per pound they would cut withholding by half. This in fact happened because the price of coffee was over 75 cents yesterday. This decision was made during a meeting in London. The member countries decided to continue this strategy because it has so far produced good results. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p 1B)

The next government must manage the petroleum bonanza very prudently and save part of those resources if it wants to come out a winner from one of the greatest economic challenges of recent years. President Cesar Gaviria, World Bank officials, and international experts made this recommendation yesterday at the opening of a seminar organized by the National Planning Department. President Gaviria said that the Cusiana oil fields must be used to decrease poverty levels and achieve a sustained growth rate. The country currently has a

reserve of 3.6 billion barrels of petroleum. Gaviria pointed out that the country must continue its search for new oil fields. Gaviria urged his successor to follow the example of Indonesia, which progressed after a petroleum boom. (Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 25 Mar 94 p 1B)

**Program Launched To Improve Police Image**  
94SM0263A Santa Fe de Bogota EL TIEMPO in Spanish 17 Feb 94 p 8C

[Text] In an effort to save the policemen who patrol the neighborhoods, blocks, and villages, the National Police yesterday officially launched the Community Participation Program, which is essentially designed to integrate the community and the police.

The plan was announced by General Carlos Alberto Pulido Barrantes, director of community participation, at a press conference, where he explained the scope of the official strategy for improving the police's image.

The official indicated that one of the most important aspects of the program is the selection of the personnel who will serve as patrol officers and whose job will be to interact with the community in their assigned areas.

The patrol officers will be selected very carefully, according to the police plan, to make sure that only qualified, well-mannered people with a strong civic spirit are chosen.

"We will no longer take people," said Pulido, "who have nothing to do, who have been rejected elsewhere. The selection process will involve background checks, and the best high school graduates from each community will be identified."

For now, the police academies will train the first 400 patrol officers, who will begin working in the underprivileged districts to determine the needs of these communities.

The program requires that the activities of the patrol officers will be monitored constantly to make sure they adjust to the needs that arise in the districts where they are working.

"The police," said General Pulido, "are willing to do whatever is necessary to reach out to each citizen. The police officer will get to know the people on his beat and will offer them service and friendship."

The general explained, however, that this will not be an easy task, since "we need more men," but he said that if the population cooperates with the program, it will become stronger and there will be participation.

In this regard, the patrol officers assigned to the program will participate in police campaigns to encourage courtesy and proper treatment to project a new image in the community.

The strategy is designed "to respond to people with our efforts," stated General Pulido, "helping people solve their problems, entertaining children, and showing support for the community as it deals with its problems."

Under the plan, in each village, municipality, and neighborhood in the country there will be a community participation office, a clearinghouse for complaints and claims, an information office, and a help line that will allow the people to voice their concerns.

**All for One**

To further the objectives of the program, the police will launch a campaign to involve patrol officers in disaster prevention, ecological projects, rescue operations, drug addiction prevention, literacy, and child protection.

In addition, the officers will be trained to work with the community on projects to build schools, rest homes, sports centers, housing, and the reconstruction of parks, roads, and sewage systems.

On another front, the police want to strengthen the Civic Police Force to contribute to the development of educational efforts to raise people's awareness of basic rules of safety and courtesy.

"We want the service to be as pure and transparent as possible, to make our work visible and get trade unions, industrial plants, Indians, black people's associations, universities, women's groups, and other social groups involved in our work," stated Salgado.

The high-ranking official also stated that as the patrol officers work in their respective communities, people's trust in that institution will be renewed.

**Ecuador**

**President 'Annoyed,' Denies U.S. Pressure**  
PA3003191894 Mexico City NOTIMEX in Spanish  
2250 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Text] Quito, 29 Mar (NOTIMEX)—Ecuadoran President Sixto Duran-Ballen denied today that the United States had pressured Ecuador to give its support—at the last minute—to Colombia to gain the OAS secretary general post. Duran-Ballen said at a news conference at Mariscal Sucre Air Base in Quito that it was decided at the last minute to support President Cesar Gaviria, given the Ecuadoran people's clamor.

The president arrived last night in Guayaquil, Ecuador, from Washington, concluding a 16-day tour during which he also visited Tokyo and Beijing. It was not until today that he flew to Quito.

He discussed the issue broadly in an attempt to convince the public of the reasons that motivated his sudden change of mind to vote for Colombia—despite the previous commitment made to support Costa Rica. Duran-Ballen stressed—visibly annoyed—that he had not been

pressured by the United States to "change" the vote committed to Bernd Niehaus, the Costa Rican foreign minister. He denied local media reports that he had changed his vote after meeting, during his stay in Washington, with Alexander Watson, U.S. assistant secretary of state for inter-American affairs.

The president defended the decision as serious Ecuadoran foreign policy and assured that in the OAS elections he made a decision based on "his own criteria and without any external influence." He explained that Foreign Minister Diego Paredes, who according to the opposition should resign for being incompetent, has his trust and will remain in his post, as he is doing a "magnificent job." Duran-Ballen added that in light of Cesar Gaviria's candidacy and the prestige he had gained leading his government "we ended up changing Ecuador's position."

The local media and the opposition censured the president and Foreign Minister Diego Paredes for annulling four times its support to Costa Rica before deciding to vote for Colombia, due to alleged U.S. pressure.

Duran-Ballen, 72, arrived last night in Ecuador ending a 16-day absence. He was on a working tour to Japan, China, and on a private visit to the United States where he underwent a routine medical checkup.

The plane that transported Duran-Ballen and his delegation from the United States was not able to land last night in Quito due to bad weather and was forced to divert to Guayaquil. The president spent the night in Guayaquil and this morning returned to the Ecuadoran capital.

### Paraguay

#### MIE Wins National Encounter Internal Elections

PY3003211094 Asuncion NOTICIAS in Spanish 28 Mar 94 pp 2-3

[Text] According to the last vote count at the closing of this edition, the Institutional Encounter Movement [Movimiento Institucionalista Encuentrista] (MIE), of the so-called ruling faction headed by Oscar Codas, won the National Encounter [EN] internal elections on 27 March. The Progressive Convergence Front [Frente de Convergencia Progresista, FCP] headed by Deputy Luis A. Mauro came in second, the New Society [NS] faction headed by Carlos Martini came in third, and the Democratic Alliance [AD] faction headed by Basilio Nikiphoroff came in last.

Seventy-two percent of voting tables had been counted by midnight. The partial results continued to show who the clear winner of the EN internal elections held nationwide on 27 March was. The vote count gave the MIE 52.6 percent of the votes, followed by the FCP with 22.5 percent, the NS with 10.6 percent, and the AD with 8.7 percent.

In a relatively calm atmosphere, other than some charges of irregularities in the voter registration lists, the EN elected the members of the party board, the coordinating board, grass-roots delegates, and district coordinators. With the MIE's victory, the ruling EN faction reasserted its hegemony both in the capital and the country's interior by a wide margin over its opponents. For its part, the FCP, headed by Deputy Luis Alberto Mauro, came in second before the NS headed by Febrerista Revolutionary Party [PRF] leader Carlos Martini.

Contrary to the atmosphere that prevailed during the last part of the election campaign (marked by strong accusations among the movements), no conflicts took place on 27 March beyond the usual complaints about the voters lists.

With an electorate that concentrates 68 percent of its potential in the metropolitan area, the leaders of the several factions that ran for election on 27 March agreed in pointing out that from now on the EN's main challenge is to gain time.

It must be pointed out that the participation rate in the elections ranged from 35 to 40 percent. Attendance was more enthusiastic in the metropolitan area than in the interior, where the greatest absentee rates were registered.

#### Cano To Replace Sanchez as CORPOSANA Chief

PY3003191394 Asuncion ULTIMA HORA in Spanish 29 Mar 94 p 13

[Excerpt] Engineer Juan Manuel Cano Fleitas was installed this morning as the new CORPOSANA [Water and Sanitation Corporation] president. He replaces Engineer Guillermo Sanchez Guffanti, who tendered his resignation after five years as CORPOSANA head.

According to what he told the press, Sanchez Guffanti resigned due to unavoidable personal reasons and commitments which demand more of his time than his official duties would allow. Unofficial reports stated that Sanchez Guffanti tendered his resignation at the request of President Juan Carlos Wasmosy. [passage omitted]

### Peru

#### Four People Injured in Lima Bomb Attack

PY3003132494 Madrid EFE in Spanish 1156 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Lima, 30 Mar (EFE)—Four people were injured today, two seriously, in downtown Lima during a bomb attack by the Maoist Shining Path gang against an Entelperu [National Telecommunications Enterprise of Peru] office that was yet to be inaugurated.

Sources at the hospital where the victims were treated said the bomb injured two peddlers, one of whom lost an arm, who were sleeping on the street near the targeted

office. The other two victims were an Entelperu guard and a pedestrian who lost an eye. The bomb was in a black bag that had been planted by two women.

On the night of 28 March, Shining Path members planted explosives at four banks, three offices of the Telefonica company, and two Entelperu offices, the latter two companies were recently purchased by the Spanish Telefonica Internacional company for \$2.002 billion. Shining Path terrorists also attacked a Navy facility and knocked down three power pylons in a Lima district causing some short, sporadic blackouts in the city.

#### **Fujimori on Economy, Postponed Ecuadoran President Visit**

PY3103132594 Lima Global de Television Network in Spanish 0100 GMT 31 Mar 94

[Text] President Alberto Fujimori has reiterated that legislative decree No. 776 [not further specified] will not be repealed. He said this issue will not be dealt with in political discussions. Commenting on another issue, Fujimori said he respects his Ecuadoran counterpart's, Sixto Duran-Ballen, the decision against traveling to Peru, but he made it clear that the invitation still stands.

[Begin recording] [Fujimori] We have to continue working along the same serious lines, without adding any demagogic or populist ingredient. Because you know what the answers are; the people are well aware of them—earnest effort, sound management of the economy, and unheard-of levels of government resources, which total some billion dollars. International reserves exceed the benchmark of \$3 billion. We are now talking about billions, not millions. The government will continue with the same economic program, which will enable us to definitely overcome our problems. We have to avoid discussing or taking measures by letting ourselves be carried away by a passing euphoria because that will be tantamount to going backwards. We have to avoid this at all costs. This is why I am not concerned about public opinion polls.

[Unidentified reporter] [question indistinct]

[Fujimori] I am going to continue with my job, I am going to work harder and earnestly in handling the economy and everything we have started.

[Reporter] Is there going to be any change with regard to the decree, some details of which have been criticized?

[Fujimori] The decree [passage indistinct].

[Reporter] With regard to the Ecuadoran president's decision to suspend his visit to Peru [passage indistinct].

[Fujimori] Only through the media. As you very well know, both the Ecuadoran community and the president himself [words indistinct] Peru is awaiting this visit with open arms. Whether this visit has been postponed or not, whether it will be made in the near future or not, we want

to welcome him with open arms. I suppose there are circumstances preventing him from coming to Peru for the time being.

[Reporters interrupting] [passage indistinct]

[Fujimori] The invitation still stands; it is an ongoing and open invitation.

[Reporter] In any case, Mr. President, this decision to postpone this trip again...

[Fujimori, interrupting] These are decisions that the invited person has every right to take—to set the most appropriate date. We will conform to this...

[Reporter interrupting] Do you think, Mr. President, that relations between the two countries may deteriorate because of this decision?

[Fujimori] No, bilateral relations are at their highest level. Current circumstances do not change the [words indistinct]. [end recording]

#### **Government Reduces Antiterrorist Budget 40 Percent**

PY3003201594 Lima EL COMERCIO in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p A14

[Text] The National Counterterrorism Directorate (Dincote) budget has been considerably reduced in the last few months. As a result, operational and intelligence services by this specialized unit in its fight against the Shining Path and the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement (MRTA) have decreased considerably. Various sources consulted have asserted that, compared with previous years, the budget has been reduced 30 to 40 percent.

It also has been reported that the number of trips to the provinces usually taken by Dincote members have been reduced to only extremely necessary ones, like when the presence of 2d Counterterrorism Intelligence Division (Divicote-2) personnel was requested in Trujillo. This operation ended with the arrest of six important MRTA leaders. Aside from this, no trips have been taken to the interior.

Until 1993, personnel from different Divicotes and even the so-called "Delta" Group frequently traveled to the interior. Their trips yielded good results and several members of regional MRTA directorates, who also belonged to the MRTA national board, were arrested.

Budget cutbacks are also affecting the serious and patient intelligence work (basic pursuits) by Dincote detectives. They said: "Now the chiefs are recommending we do not spend more than the indispensable expenses. Nonetheless, if we do not risk some expenses, we will not be able to succeed. If we had followed orders, we would not have arrested Abimael Guzman and his leaders. Sometimes we have to grope in the dark until we are able to obtain important information."

It also has been reported that, so far, almost 30 high-ranking officials have been appointed to the National Intelligence Service (SIN), including those comprising Divicote-1 or the Special Intelligence Groups (GEIN) that captured Abimael Guzman.

They have explained that only now, with the presence of these specialized detectives, is SIN really conducting intelligence work and supplying appropriate information to the operational units that conduct the required raids.

#### **Cachique Rivera Cocaine Trafficker Captured**

PY3003035294 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 12

[Excerpts] A high-ranking official of the Antidrug Division [Dinandero] has said that Margarita Cachique Rivera's arrest will inevitably lead to the dismantling of the drug trafficking gang led by her brother Abelardo, aka "Teniente" or "Negro." Dinandro intelligence agents caught the woman, who was at large, as she was leaving one of her properties in Chorrillos.

The "firm" of the Cachique Rivera brothers, which also includes brothers Segundo, aka "Capitan" or "Guno"; Adolfo, aka "Alferez"; Nicolas, aka "Mayor"; and their father Gaudencio Cachique Sajami, is considered the Cali cartel's main cocaine hydrochloride supplier. According to Directorate estimates, the gang sends to Colombia 1,000 kg of cocaine and 20 tons of cocaine base per month.

Margarita Cachique Rivera, her father, and her brothers are wanted by the Seventh Court and by the 30th Lima Court on drug trafficking charges. Born on 7 May 1964 in Rupa Rupa district, Leoncio Prado Province, Huanuco, Margarita's job was to contact international drug traffickers' organizations in Lima, perform financial operations, and buy the chemicals for the production of cocaine base and cocaine hydrochloride.

She was captured last Sunday, in the evening, in the vicinity of Alameda Premio Real Avenue, in block J, lot 16, of the La Encantada neighborhood in Chorrillos. She was carrying neither arms nor drugs, and did not resist arrest.

The source said: "We are aware of the Cachique Riveras' movements," adding that "the Margarita's arrest will give us positive clues for finding her brothers. Undoubtedly, it is a very important arrest." The Cachique Riveras, who are led by "Abelardo" or "Teniente," is an organization that, according to some specialists, is the third most important "firm" after Demetrio Chavez Penaherrera, aka "Vaticano," whose firm is now led by his brother Elias, aka "Quichin" or "Sony," and Colombian Walter Simeon Vargas Arias, aka "El Ministro." [passage omitted]

According to Dinandro, "Teniente" was spotted last February in Boca del Manu, Madre de Dios. He is believed to have travelled to that area to personally

collect money obtained through drug sales from the Colombian "Pablito," who has operated in this department since October 1993.

Antinarcotics agents have learned that "Pablito" refused to honor his debt, resulting in a shootout between the henchmen of both mafia members. The Colombian, however, finally decided to honor his debt. The Dinandro official said that "if 'Pablito' had to go to Madre de Dios, the debt must have been very large, and also the drug shipment that was sold to the Colombian."

#### **Security Forces Seize 1,051 Kg Cocaine Paste**

PY3003124194 Madrid EFE in Spanish 0047 GMT 30 Mar 94

[Text] Lima, 29 Mar (EFE)—Today, General Nicolas Hermoza, chief of the High Command of the Peruvian Armed Forces, reported that the price of cocaine base has fallen abruptly following recent security service actions against the trafficking gangs. Hermoza said the price of washed cocaine base has fallen the past few weeks from \$1,500 to \$150 per kilo. He presented 23 traffickers to the media, who were captured in the jungle department of Madre de Dios while shipping 1,051 kg of cocaine to Colombia. Hermoza also showed assets seized from the traffickers, including electric generators, precursors to manufacture cocaine base, communications equipment, and vehicles.

The traffickers were captured in several operations last week in the province of Inapari, Madre de Dios Department, on the Brazilian border, where a drug collection center operated. Hermoza indicated that the cocaine paste, which was to have been processed into cocaine hydrochloride in Colombia, had arrived from the Hualaga valleys and from the Ucayali River area.

The military commander said: "These traffickers' capture and their equipment is proof that land and air actions in the Hualaga and Ucayali areas have caused the trafficking axis to be moved from there to Madre de Dios Department."

Security forces seized 3,653 kg of basic paste and captured 13 traffickers on 24 February in Boca Manu, also in Madre de Dios Department, in the largest drug seizure ever in this Andean country. Peru produces some 2,000 tons of basic paste per annum, which is exported mainly to Colombia where the Cali and Medellin "cartels" process it into the pure cocaine that is sold in the United States and Europe. Two-thirds of all cocaine consumed in the world is processed from the basic paste that comes from Peru.

#### **Life Imprisonment Confirmed for 'Terrorists'**

PY2903232594 Lima LA REPUBLICA in Spanish 22 Mar 94 p 10

[Excerpt] Three Chilean and two Peruvian terrorists, who were members of the Tupac Amaru Revolutionary

Movement and who were captured last year by DIN-COTE [Counterterrorism Directorate], will serve life imprisonment penalties on charges of high treason. The decision was confirmed yesterday by the Special Military Court of the Peruvian Air Force, which reviewed the trial as an appellate court.

The penalty will be imposed on Chileans Jaime Francisco Sebastian Castillo Petrucci, Lautaro Enrique Melado Saavedra, and Maria Concepcion Pincheira Saenz, and on Peruvians Heber Celso Oliva Zelada and Segundo Nemesio Alva Marin, who were involved in the abduction of Peruvian entrepreneur Raul Hiraoka Torres and other crimes.

The public relations office of the Supreme Council of the Military Courts explained that high treason is the legal name for aggravated terrorism, "which because of its juridical nature and its dangerousness applies to both nationals and foreigners, because terrorism is a crime against mankind that is repressed ex officio in all countries of the world." [passage omitted]

#### **Arrest Warrant for Former President Garcia Issued**

PY3003233294 Lima EXPRESO in Spanish 21 Mar 94 p A2

[Excerpt] Supreme Court Chairman Luis Serpa Segura told Italian prosecutor Vittorio Paraggio during a meeting held in the past few days that Peruvian justice has issued a national arrest warrant against former President Alan Garcia Perez.

This was reported by congressman Fernando Olivera, a member of the congressional committee investigating the fraud case of the Lima subway's construction. The committee members met last week with the Italian prosecutors visiting Peru to investigate the case, who returned to Italy on 20 March.

The arrest order, however, has not been transmitted yet to Interpol, Olivera said. "I have talked with the Interpol representative in Peru and he told me he was not informed by the judicial branch about the arrest warrant," he said.

Olivera demanded that the Supreme Court immediately transmit the arrest order to Interpol in order "to prevent Alan Garcia from continuing to flout the law and stay abroad as if he were not sought in Peru." [passage omitted]

#### **Argentina To Back Export of Peruvian Radioisotopes**

PY3003010194 Lima Radio Programas del Peru Network in Spanish 1800 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by Enrique Vidal]

[Text] Argentine Ambassador Arturo Osorio has said that Argentina will support Peru's bid to export radioisotopes produced at the Huarangal nuclear plant. He said this after visiting the modern facilities located some 33 km north of Lima. In the company of Peruvian Nuclear Energy Institute Director Conrado Seminario, Osorio made the following comments:

[Begin recording] [Osorio] We have visited this nuclear plant and can appreciate its optimum level of efficiency, the high level of professional training, and their excellent skill in handling this delicate nuclear plant, which also represents a security issue for the world. It conforms to the strictest nuclear safety regulations and it is really marvelous. It is a great satisfaction for those of us who have worked together to build this nuclear power plant as it will enable us to continue our partnership from a commercial standpoint or through the reciprocal transfer of technology by means of this great work, which is perhaps the most important nuclear reactor in Latin America.

[Unidentified reporter] Are you hinting at the possibility of entering into an export partnership?

[Osorio] Yes, there is that possibility.

[Reporter] How could this be made into something concrete, Mr. Ambassador?

[Osorio] That is a subject for experts to address. I believe that once the authorities of both countries discuss things at technical level, we will have, perhaps in the near future, a positive [words indistinct]. [end recording]

That was Argentine Ambassador to Lima Arturo Osorio, after making a technical inspection of the Huarangal nuclear power plant and its 10-megawatt reactor accompanied by Conrado Seminario. The plant building, which will also produce radioisotopes used in medicine and in industry, has been possible thanks to the technical cooperation of Argentine experts. We should point out that 35 percent of the electrical energy consumed in Argentina is produced by nuclear power plants.

#### **Venezuela**

#### **Burelli Congratulates Gaviria on OAS Victory**

PA3003151694 Caracas EL UNIVERSAL in Spanish 29 Mar 94 p 4-16

["Text" of letter from Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas to Colombian President Cesar Gaviria on Gaviria's victory in the OAS election for new secretary general]

[Text] Caracas, 28 March 1994

Your Excellency  
Dr. Cesar Gaviria Trujillo  
President of the Republic  
Bogota

Mr. President:

Please accept my congratulations on your election to the office of secretary general of the OAS. I offer you all the cooperation I can give in the hopes that you, as secretary general, will be able to coordinate the expectations and spirit of this hemisphere that shakes because of its internal social differences and the stupor of the unusual world disorder unleashed by the most hurried changes in history. I trust that in your hands this universe [as published] of ours will be deserving of the name of "Continent of hope."

Cordially,

[Signed] Miguel Angel Burelli.

#### Discusses Ties With Colombia

PA3003152594 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 26 Mar 94 p 6

[Report by Enelcys Calderon]

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas has said that relations between Venezuela and Colombia remain excellent after the Venezuelan candidate for OAS secretary general withdrew from the race. These relations were never affected by the campaign for the post of OAS secretary general, he added. "Relations are excellent and will remain so" despite the struggle for the post, he said.

A number of vehicles stolen in Venezuela, taken to Colombia, and returned by Colombian authorities in a joint effort by the Colombian-Venezuelan border commissions, will arrive in the country next week, the minister said, although the information had already been published.

Venezuela succeeded in having the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency sign an agreement to lift the ban on reformulated Venezuelan gasoline, Burelli Rivas said. He also said that PDVSA [Venezuelan Petroleum, Inc.], the Foreign Trade Institute, the Energy and Mines Ministry, and the Foreign Ministry also succeeded in having the EU accept orimulsion [water-emulsified fuel] in their markets.

The delegation that will represent Venezuela during next Sunday's OAS session is made up of the deputy foreign minister and the ambassador to the organization, Guido Grocoscos. The latter will vote on behalf of the country during the election for secretary general. Demetrio Boesner was designated acting director general of the Foreign Ministry.

Portuguese Prime Minister Anibal Cavaco Silva will visit Venezuela in the second half of June to improve bilateral ties and discuss ways to improve trade between the two countries.

The president of the prime minister's cabinet is scheduled to arrive in Caracas in the middle of May to agree on the items that Cavaco Silva will discuss during his

stay. The information was confirmed by the Portuguese ambassador during a visit to the foreign minister's office.

#### Former Defense Minister Assumes U.S. Post

PA3103030694 Caracas Venezolana de Television Network in Spanish 2350 GMT 29 Mar 94

[Report by Cecilia Pachano for "The News" newscast]

[Text] Venezuelan Foreign Minister Miguel Angel Burelli Rivas has confirmed the appointment of Vice Admiral Radames Munoz Leon as defense ministry adviser in the United States. Burelli Rivas explained the post has no diplomatic status. The appointment was requested by the Defense Ministry.

[Begin recording] [Burelli] It is not a diplomatic post.

[Unidentified reporter] Precisely, but within the Armed Forces...

[Burelli, interrupting] The Defense Ministry made the decision, and the Foreign Ministry is not authorized to discuss this.

[Reporter] If this is not a diplomatic post, why is he being given a diplomatic passport?

[Burelli] Well, this status is provided when any function is carried out abroad on behalf of the Venezuelan state, to facilitate things and provide an advantage during a mission. The only assistance provided by the Foreign Ministry is the issuance of a special passport, or a diplomatic passport. [end recording]

As expected, the foreign minister was asked how statements by [Lieutenant Colonel Hugo] Chavez, who has said he does not rule out the possibility of a military coup, would affect the country's image. The minister minimized these statements and said the fact that Chavez has joined politics strengthens Venezuela's democratic position.

The Venezuelan foreign minister declined too much comment on criticisms surrounding the recent election of the OAS secretary general. But Burelli Rivas did say he wants to address the Congress to explain what happened with regard to Venezuela's candidate.

#### Finance Minister Presents 1995 Budget to Council

PA3003183594 Caracas EL GLOBO in Spanish 24 Mar 94 p 12

[Report by Mayra Chirinc Ochoa]

[Text] An official source has reported that Finance Minister Julio Sosa Rodriguez presented the 1995 budget, worth 1.7 trillion bolivares, to the Council of Ministers on 23 March. The source added that there are plans to drastically reduce the debt by an estimated 70 percent next year. This plan implies the exclusion of treasury bonds as a financing mechanism and the refinancing of the debt owed to multilateral organizations. It

was reported that World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank financing will be limited to projects liable to be carried out. This is part of the new administration's policy of reducing the debt to its barest minimum.

The estimated price of a barrel of oil, production figures, and rate of exchange were not reported. Several options are being studied, but the Council of Ministers will make the final decision. The new public administration employees' salary classifications, which were approved by the government of Ramon J. Velasquez and which will go into effect this year, were incorporated into the next year's budget.

Although not yet signed into legislation, the revenue from the Value-Added Tax [VAT] applied on wholesalers, luxury taxes, and higher income taxes were included in the 1995 budget after the reforms were introduced at the Congress. In this regard, it has been reported that negotiations will be held with the Legislative Branch because these are proposals not yet passed into law.

It is worthwhile mentioning that VAT was included in the 1993 budget when the tax had not yet been approved and that, for this reason, the budget was turned down by the Congress. At the time, the Congress decided to substitute the anticipated revenue from VAT for treasury bonds, thus balancing the budget.

According to the Budget Law, the 1995 budget should be presented to the Congress in the second half of April. Therefore, it is expected to be presented between 15 and 20 April. The finance minister had previously considered the possibility of asking Congress for an extension to present the budget in June. The idea, however, was dismissed for political reasons and it was decided to stick to the deadline stipulated by law.

#### Parties Comment on Proposal To Dissolve Congress

##### Medina: Congress 'Illegitimate'

94SM0251A Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 11 Feb 94 p 25

[Article by Irima Gomez Ramirez]

[Text] Within the next few days constitutional reform will be the fundamental issue that Congress will consider. This debate is expected to be heated, with marked difference of opinion among the political groups now dominating Parliament.

This Wednesday [16 Feb], the Bicameral Conference Committee will meet with experts from the Legal Advisory Service of Congress to determine whether the constitutional debate will start from zero, or if it will use the work done by the former legislature, in which deputies approved the first and second readings of the constitutional reform bill, and the Senate left its second reading

pending. On this matter there are a number of divergent opinions among members of Congress. Some believe the debate should start from zero, but taking as a base the previous work done.

In light of the political panorama the National Congress now presents, Causa R [Radical Cause] believes the constitutional reform debate should start from zero, but first the present Congress should be dissolved.

Causa R is actually working on a new Constitution, convening individuals and groups for a national debate. The constitutional reform debate was conducted inside the walls of Congress, and the people did not take part in that debate. A new Constitution requires the people's views and direct participation.

Pablo Medina, the head of Causa R's parliamentary group, objects: "Is this fraudulent National Congress going to debate the Constitution? The country does not want this Congress: we, the way things are going... When we hold all these debates on choosing the Treasury inspector and prosecutor, the people are going to call for the dissolution of Congress. We are going to request the dissolution of Congress and the holding of a referendum so the people can decide whether or not this Congress should continue to lead the discussion of bills and the constitutional reform." He added that this Congress has no moral or political authority to debate constitutional reform, as this Congress is the product of a fraud. "There are a million invalid votes. AD [Democratic Action] and COPEI [Social Christian Party] added 40 deputies and that is what gave them a majority. Therefore, they have no legitimacy. This is an illegitimate Congress. It has no legitimacy to function, much less to reform the Constitution."

He explained that although the present Constitution does not include a provision for a dissolution referendum, it is possible to conduct a vote of the nation on whether or not the people want this Congress to be dissolved.

"In Colombia a Constituent Congress was held and the Colombian Constitution did not include that possibility. They did it for political reasons: it was right for the country. We are considering how to do this, but we are convinced that this Congress should go; it should be dissolved."

According to Senator Humberto Celli, the work done by the former legislature on constitutional reform was not exclusive to that legislature, and so it should be considered by the new Congress. He believes that recent years have been quite eventful and the nation's present situation is completely different, "even the political makeup of the chambers is completely different, and all this requires a new study which this Congress needs to undertake, while also taking into account the work done by the former Congress." The deputy leader of the COPEI group, Nelson Chitty La Roche, thinks the new

definition of the political and parliamentary landscape requires that the constitutional reform debate be started anew.

"The parliamentarians who have been chosen by our people to represent them must offer their views, their opinions on the constitutional issue, for we have to realize that our political life is not a two-party system now; the political map is now divided into four, and the social constitution now being debated in the streets is permeated with the spirit of society. It must have some influence on determining what the constitutional reform debate will be."

Deputy Nelson Chitty La Roche believes that some of the issues of importance which will have to be dealt with in the constitutional debate are revocation [or dissolution] referenda, the media oligarchy, the military justice system, and the decentralization process.

#### COPEI Rejects Statement

94SM0251B Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 12 Feb 94 p 24

[Text] The deputy leader of COPEI's parliamentary group, Nelson Chitty La Roche, said that Article 250 of the National Constitution states that the Constitution may not be subjected to pressures, and "certainly not to mechanisms different from those provided for its amendment and reform," thereby rejecting the statement by radical Deputy Pablo Medina, who has called for the dissolution of Congress as the starting point for the debate on a new Constitution.

According to Chitty La Roche, acting in contradiction to what is prescribed by the present Constitution would be the same as carrying out a coup d'etat. For that reason, he disagrees with Medina's statements.

In the opinion of the Social Christian parliamentarian, Congress should concern itself with "legislating for the people"; he argues that "the National Constitution is an esoteric concept for people who live in slums."

Despite that statement, Chitty La Roche does not oppose reforming the present Constitution, although he advocates doing so in a more gradual way than what Deputy Medina has proposed.

Chitty La Roche also reiterated the need to legislate for the people's interests, mentioning in this regard the need to amend the Mortgage Debtor Law, among others.

Finally, the Social Christian deputy said: "The procedures for constitutional revision, amendment, and reform are set forth in the Constitution, and we can offer our support only for those procedures, unless we are to begin the French revolutionary process and call for the abolition of all institutions, with liberty to begin by prohibiting everything. And especially by prohibiting prohibitions."

#### Fermin: Dissolution 'Antidemocratic'

94SM0251C Caracas EL DIARIO DE CARACAS in Spanish 13 Feb 94 p 19

[Text] The former presidential candidate of AD [Democratic Action], Claudio Fermin, categorically and absolutely rejected the dissolution of the National Congress advocated by Causa R [Radical Cause], a party he feels "is based on antidemocratic concepts; moreover, it does not address what the country needs for its progress and well-being."

He believes such proposals are common in parties like Causa R when they do not win the people's support. "They try to eliminate all centers of free discussion and to denigrate all institutions. I think that proposal is not in harmony with the country's aspirations; we need forums for debate, centers for legislation, for the supervision of public services, not a totalitarian, dictatorial schema that is alien from any true decision-making by the people."

Fermin thus expressed his absolute opposition to the proposal by Causa R's Deputy Pablo Medina and added that, as a democrat, a member of a party that wants a society in which all may participate and develop programs, he cannot support a proposal that is compatible with a totalitarian society, which propagates the view that the best thing is to eliminate parliaments, laws, and anything else that may be troublesome for minority groups that want to establish their power over the people and against the people.

He believes that is the explanation behind Causa R's proposal. "This organization's behavior is contrary to the harmonious coexistence of the Venezuelan people."

He said that Medina and his party have made an isolated proposal that will not go anywhere, "for this society has for many years grown accustomed to electing municipal councils, legislatures, mayors, governors, senators and deputies, all of which provide the foundation for popular representation."

#### MAS, Others React

94SM0251D Caracas EL NACIONAL in Spanish 13 Feb 94 p D2

[Article by Adela Leal]

[Excerpt] The views expressed in Congress suggest that the proposal to dissolve the National Congress which was made by Causa R [Radical Cause] Deputy Pablo Medina will not succeed, at least through legal means. The proposal has been considered by some supporters of President Calder: in case the present Parliament might make a regular practice of blocking government policies.

The opinions expressed by some legislators from different political groups suggest that a hypothetical dissolution of the legislative chambers, through a constitutional reform, will be rejected.

The views expressed agree that a decision like the one proposed should not be considered in terms of its application to the present Congress, but rather as a general standard applicable in specific circumstances of Venezuela's national life.

One of those holding this view is Segundo Melendez, head of the MAS [Movement Toward Socialism] parliamentary group. In his opinion, a circumstance of the kind proposed should be established in the Constitution in a very clear and precise manner. In addition, it should respond to a structural situation related to the state's operation, so that political situations that might arise during a parliamentary term could be resolved by constitutional means.

But calling for such a step because this Congress or any other Congress might be in a crisis situation that requires the application of a constitutional regulation which does not exist, but which needs to be discussed at that time, is a mistake.

He cited the need to debate the reform of the Constitution—if this long-awaited debate actually takes place—"in the abstract," on the basis of major general problems

in order to develop a response to those general problems. If later they are applicable to this or to any other Parliament, in specific circumstances, that is a different matter. But there already exists a mechanism to deal with the situation that has now arisen.

#### A Detailed Analysis

Pablo Medina, deputy and secretary general of Causa R, though, using an "innovative interpretation" of the Constitution, invokes Article 4 of the Constitution, which states that sovereignty resides in the people and is exercised through the ballot. He believes that the people, through a referendum, can dissolve the present Congress which he calls "worthless" because, in his view, many of the people in Congress got there through electoral fraud.

However, in his proposal, Deputy Medina seems not to [correctly] interpret the general spirit of this clause which, while it does indeed state that sovereignty resides in the people, makes it very clear that the people exercise this sovereignty by voting for the organs of public authority, one of which is the legislative branch. Therefore, any dissolution must be made through a constitutional reform or by the use of force. [passage omitted]